Angels

Intro: There have been through the years few studies that I am aware of concerning angels. It would be a wide and varied study because there is so much dealing with angels in the Scriptures. Thus, this lesson will not be exhaustive in nature but hopefully gives some ideas for your continued study.

I. THE WORD:

A. It comes from:
   1. The Hebrew is \textit{malak}.
   2. The Greek word is \textit{ἄγγελος} (\textit{aggelos}).

B. The meaning is “messenger.”

C. It is used:
   1. Literally it is a heavenly supernatural being acting as God’s messenger or His servants.
   2. It is figuratively applied to man.
      a. Hag. 1:13 “Then spake Haggai the LORD’S messenger [Hebrew is \textit{malak}] in the LORD’S message unto the people, saying, I am with you, saith the LORD.”
      b. Mal. 2:7 “For the priest’s lips should keep knowledge, and they should seek the law at his mouth: for he is the messenger [Hebrew is \textit{malak}] of the LORD of hosts.”
      c. Mal. 3:1 “Behold, I will send my messenger [Hebrew is \textit{malak}], and he shall prepare the way before me: and the Lord, whom ye seek, shall suddenly come to his temple, even the messenger of the covenant, whom ye delight in: behold, he shall come, saith the LORD of hosts.”
      d. Luke 7:24 “And when the messengers [Greek is \textit{aggelos}] of John were departed, he began to speak unto the people concerning John, What went ye out into the wilderness for to see? A reed shaken with the wind?”
   3. There are times of difficulty because it is used both ways:
      a. Is it being used literally (a heavenly being) or figuratively (for a messenger)?
      b. Heb. 13:2 “Be not forgetful to entertain strangers: for thereby some have entertained angels unawares.”
      c. Gal. 1:8 “But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed.”

II. ORIGIN OF ANGELS

A. They were created:
   1. Psa. 148:1-5 “Praise ye the LORD. Praise ye the LORD from the heavens: praise him in the heights. 2Praise ye him, all his angels: praise ye him, all his hosts. 3Praise ye him, sun and moon: praise him, all ye stars of light. 4Praise him, ye heavens of heavens, and ye waters that be above the heavens. 5Let them praise the name of the LORD: for he commanded, and they were created.”
   2. Neh. 9:6 “Thou, even thou, art LORD alone: thou hast made heaven, the heaven of heavens, with all their host, the earth, and all things that are therein, the seas, and all that is therein, and thou preservest them all; and the host of heaven worshippeth thee.”
   3. Col. 1:16 “For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him:”
      a. We read of principalities and powers in heaven: Eph. 3:10 “To the intent that now unto the principalities and powers in heavenly \textit{places} might be known by the church the manifold wisdom of God,”
      b. They must be the angels.
4. Job 38:7 “When the morning stars sang together, and all the sons of God shouted for joy?”
   a. God is questioning Job at this point.
   b. God asks Job about 40 questions, none of which Job could answer.
   c. He is speaking about the creation here.
      (1) “Sons of God” is usually applied to the angels.
      (2) So at the beginning, the angels were there shouting for joy or giving praise to God.

B. When were they created?
1. We do not know.
2. Most conclude that it would have been during the creation week—probably at the
   beginning of that week.
   a. Exo. 20:11 “For in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them is,
      and rested the seventh day: wherefore the LORD blessed the sabbath day, and hallowed it.”
   b. The heaven here might be our sky.
3. It is possible that they were created before the creation week.
4. That means they are not lessor gods as some have contended.

C. Under God’s authority.
1. They are subject to God’s law; Psa. 103:20-21 “Bless the LORD, ye his angels, that excel in strength,
   that do his commandments, hearkening unto the voice of his word. 21Bless ye the LORD, all ye his hosts;
   ye ministers of his, that do his pleasure.”
2. Those who failed to obey suffered the consequences.
   a. 2 Pet. 2:4 “For if God spared not the angels that sinned, but cast them down to hell, and
      delivered them into chains of darkness, to be reserved unto judgment;”
      (1) Hell is from the Greek ταρταρῶ (tartaroo).
         (a) It is where we get the idea of Tartarus and the punishment in that compartment of hades.
         (b) Luke 16:23-24 “And in hell he lift up his eyes, being in torments, and seeth Abraham afar off, and Lazarus in his bosom. 24And he cried and said, Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus, that he may dip the tip of his finger in water, and cool my tongue; for I am tormented in this flame.”
      (2) When? We do not know.
   b. Jude 6 “And the angels which kept not their first estate, but left their own habitation, he hath
      reserved in everlasting chains under darkness unto the judgment of the great day.”
      (1) They left their first estate, their own habitation.
      (2) They have been cast down to Tartarus.
3. It is commonly thought that Satan is a fallen angel who led a rebellion against God
   and was cast down.
   a. Most of the passages used to support this idea are taken out of context.
   b. Ultimately, we do not know the origin of Satan.
   c. However, the Devil does have angels.
      (1) Mat. 25:41 “Then shall he say also unto them on the left hand, Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels:”
      (2) Rev. 12:9 “And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.”
In contrast, there are angels in heaven.

(a) Mat. 22:30 “For in the resurrection they neither marry, nor are given in marriage, but are as the angels of God in heaven.”

(b) This was the angel’s habitation or first estate.

D. Even though created, they are higher than man.

1. Psa. 8:4-5 “What is man, that thou art mindful of him? and the son of man, that thou visitest him? 5 For thou hast made him a little lower than the angels, and hast crowned him with glory and honour.”

2. 2 Pet. 2:11 “Whereas angels, which are greater in power and might, bring not railing accusation against them before the Lord.”

3. Heb. 2:7 “Thou madest him a little lower than the angels; thou crownedst him with glory and honour, and didst set him over the works of thy hands.”

4. Yet, they are not to be worshipped by man.

III. THE FORM OF ANGELS

A. They have been mistaken for men, thus bore human form.

1. Gen. 18:2, 16 “And he lift up his eyes and looked, and, lo, three men stood by him: and when he saw them, he ran to meet them from the tent door, and bowed himself toward the ground,… 16 And the men rose up from thence, and looked toward Sodom: and Abraham went with them to bring them on the way.”

2. Gen. 19:1, 15 “And there came two angels to Sodom at even; and Lot sat in the gate of Sodom: and Lot seeing them rose up to meet them; and he bowed himself with his face toward the ground… 15 And when the morning arose, then the angels hastened Lot, saying, Arise, take thy wife, and thy two daughters, which are here; lest thou be consumed in the iniquity of the city.”

3. Eze. 9:2 “And, behold, six men came from the way of the higher gate, which lieth toward the north, and every man a slaughter weapon in his hand; and one man among them was clothed with linen, with a writer’s inkhorn by his side: and they went in, and stood beside the brasen altar.”

4. In all their appearances on earth:
   a. They were generally mistaken for men.
   b. They are always represented as masculine gender, never feminine.
   c. The only distinction between men is that the angels had on white clothing (when men recognized them as angels).

5. There are instances where man did not see them.
   a. Balaam’s donkey saw the angel but Balaam did not; Num. 22:22-31 “And God’s anger was kindled because he went: and the angel of the LORD stood in the way for an adversary against him. Now he was riding upon his ass, and his two servants were with him. 23 And the ass saw the angel of the LORD standing in the way, and his sword drawn in his hand: and the ass turned aside out of the way, and went into the field: and Balaam smote the ass, to turn her into the way. 24 But the angel of the LORD stood in a path of the vineyards, a wall being on this side, and a wall on that side. 25 And when the ass saw the angel of the LORD, she thrust herself against the wall: and he smote her again. 26 And the angel of the LORD went further, and stood in a narrow place, where was no way to turn either to the right hand or to the left. 27 And when the ass saw the angel of the LORD, she fell down under Balaam: and Balaam’s foot against the wall: and he smote her again. 28 And the angel of the LORD went further, and stood in a narrow place, where was no way to turn either to the right hand or to the left. 29 And when the ass saw the angel of the LORD, she fell down under Balaam: and Balaam’s anger was kindled, and he smote the ass with a staff. 30 And the LORD opened the mouth of the ass, and she said unto Balaam, What have I done unto thee, that thou hast smitten me these three times? 31 And Balaam said unto the ass, Because thou hast mocked me: I would there were a sword in mine hand, for now would I kill thee. 32 And the ass said unto Balaam, Am not I thine ass, upon which thou hast ridden ever since I was thine unto this day? was I ever wont to do so unto thee? And he said, Nay. 33 Then the LORD opened the eyes of Balaam, and he saw the angel of the LORD
standing in the way, and his sword drawn in his hand: and he bowed down his head, and fell flat on his face.”

b. Elisha’s servant did not see the angels protecting them

(1) 2 Kin. 6:15-17  “And when the servant of the man of God was risen early, and gone forth, behold, an host compassed the city both with horses and chariots. And his servant said unto him, Alas, my master! how shall we do? 16 And he answered, Fear not: for they that be with us are more than they that be with them. 17 And Elisha prayed, and said, L ORD, I pray thee, open his eyes, that he may see. And the L ORD opened the eyes of the young man; and he saw: and, behold, the mountain was full of horses and chariots of fire round about Elisha.”

(2) Psa. 34:7 “The angel of the L ORD encampeth round about them that fear him, and delivereth them.”

B. No indication they were winged.

1. This is what we generally associate with them.

2. The exception is that are spoken of as flying.

a. We must conclude that it is figurative and not literal in moving quickly to do the will of the Lord.

b. Dan. 9:21 “Yea, whiles I was speaking in prayer, even the man Gabriel, whom I had seen in the vision at the beginning, being caused to fly swiftly, touched me about the time of the evening oblation.”

3. Cherubim and Seraphim were winged.

a. They were physical, man-made representatives of the heavenly host.

b. They were 2-winged, 4-winged, and 6-winged (no doubt this is where the idea that angels were winged came from).

C. They could take on any form God wanted them to take; Heb. 1:7 “And of the angels he saith, Who maketh his angels spirits [winds], and his ministers a flame of fire.”

IV. NATURE AND ATTRIBUTES OF ANGELS

A. Not marriageable

1. Mat. 22:30 “For in the resurrection they neither marry, nor are given in marriage, but are as the angels of God in heaven.”

a. Those who are full preterist (A.D.70 doctrine):

b. They believe the resurrection took place at A.D.70.

c. Yet, they continue to marry proving they are not willing to fulfill what their false doctrine demands.

2. Gen. 6:2, 4 “That the sons of God saw the daughters of men that they were fair; and they took them wives of all which they chose…. There were giants in the earth in those days; and also after that, when the sons of God came in unto the daughters of men, and they bare children to them, the same became mighty men which were of old, men of renown.”

a. “Sons of God” are used for angels.
b. Contextually, it is the sons of Seth and the daughters of men would be the
descendants of Cain.

B. Personal agents
1. They belong to God and are sent to do His bidding.
   a. They are called “angel[s] of God” 21 times.
   b. Being His angels, they belong to Him.
2. However, the devil also has his angles.
   a. Mat. 25:41 “Then shall he say also unto them on the left hand, Depart from me, ye cursed, into
      everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels:”
   b. Rev. 12:9 “And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan,
      which deceiveth the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with
      him.”

C. Intelligent
1. 2 Sam. 14:17, 20 “Then thine handmaid said, The word of my lord the king shall now be
   comfortable: for as an angel of God, so is my lord the king to discern good and bad: therefore the LORD
   thy God will be with thee…. 20To fetch about this form of speech hath thy servant Joab done this thing:
   and my lord is wise, according to the wisdom of an angel of God, to know all things that are in the
   earth.”
   a. This woman is speaking to David.
   b. She likens David’s wisdom to the wisdom of angels implying that they have
      greater wisdom than man.
2. However, they are not omniscient; Mat. 24:36 “But of that day and hour knoweth no
   man, no, not the angels of heaven, but my Father only.”

D. Super-human strength
1. Psa. 103:20 “Bless the L ORD, ye his angels, that excel in strength, that do his commandments,
   hearkening unto the voice of his word.”
2. 2 Thc. 1:7-9 “And to you who are troubled rest with us, when the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from
   heaven with his mighty angels, 8In flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that
   obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ: 9Who shall be punished with everlasting destruction from
   the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of his power;”
3. 2 Pet. 2:11 “Whereas angels, which are greater in power and might, bring not railing accusation
   against them before the Lord.”
4. However, they are not omnipotent.

E. Innumerable
1. Heb. 12:22 “But ye are come unto mount Sion, and unto the city of the living God, the heavenly
   Jerusalem, and to an innumerable company of angels,”
2. Rev. 5:11 “And I beheld, and I heard the voice of many angels round about the throne and the beasts
   and the elders: and the number of them was ten thousand times ten thousand, and thousands of
   thousands;”

F. They are servants to men and interested in man’s affairs.
1. Mat. 18:10 “Take heed that ye despise not one of these little ones; for I say unto you, That in heaven
   their angels do always behold the face of my Father which is in heaven.”
2. 1 Cor. 4:9 “For I think that God hath set forth us the apostles last, as it were appointed to death: for
   we are made a spectacle unto the world, and to angels, and to men.”
3. 1 Cor. 11:10 “For this cause ought the woman to have power on her head because of the angels.”
4. Eph. 3:10 “To the intent that now unto the principalities and powers in heavenly places might be
   known by the church the manifold wisdom of God,”
5. Heb. 1:14 “Are they not all ministering spirits, sent forth to minister for them who shall be heirs of salvation?”

6. There is no hint in the Bible of guardian angels.

**G. They have a special interest in man’s salvation.**

1. At the announcement that a Savior was born; Luke 2:11, 13-14 “For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord…. 13And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying, 14Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.”

2. Luke 15:7, 10 [lost sheep, lost coin] “I say unto you, that likewise joy shall be in heaven over one sinner that repenteth, more than over ninety and nine just persons, which need no repentance…. 10Likewise, I say unto you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner that repenteth.”

3. 1 Pet. 1:12 “Unto whom it was revealed, that not unto themselves, but unto us they did minister the things, which are now reported unto you by them that have preached the gospel unto you with the Holy Ghost sent down from heaven; which things the angels desire to look into.”

4. The angels came and ministered to Jesus during His earthly sojourn.
   a. Luke 22
      (1) In the Garden prior to His death
      (2) Luke 22:43 “And there appeared an angel unto him from heaven, strengthening him.”
   b. An angel strengthened Him to fulfill the very thing they praised God and rejoiced about at His birth.

**V. ACTIVITIES OF ANGELS**

A. Not a complete list nor does it mean they are doing these things today although they might be.

B. Guarding Gates

1. Gen. 3:24 “So he drove out the man; and he placed at the east of the garden of Eden Cherubims [angels?], and a flaming sword which turned every way, to keep the way of the tree of life.”

2. Rev. 21:12 “And had a wall great and high, and had twelve gates, and at the gates twelve angels, and names written thereon, which are the names of the twelve tribes of the children of Israel.”

C. Execute Judgments

1. Destroying Sodom and Gomorrah; Gen. 19:12-13 “And the men said unto Lot, Hast thou here any besides? son in law, and thy sons, and thy daughters, and whatsoever thou hast in the city, bring them out of this place: 13For we will destroy this place, because the cry of them is waxen great before the face of the LORD; and the LORD hath sent us to destroy it.”

2. After David sinned in numbering the people; 2 Sam. 24:15-17 “So the LORD sent a pestilence upon Israel from the morning even to the time appointed: and there died of the people from Dan even to Beersheba seventy thousand men. 16And when the angel stretched out his hand upon Jerusalem to destroy it, the LORD repented him of the evil, and said to the angel that destroyed the people, It is enough: stay now thine hand. And the angel of the LORD was by the threshingplace of Araunah the Jebusite. 17And David spake unto the LORD when he saw the angel that smote the people, and said, Lo, I have sinned, and I have done wickedly: but these sheep, what have they done? let thine hand, I pray thee, be against me, and against my father’s house.”

3. Mat. 13:41-42 “The Son of man shall send forth his angels, and they shall gather out of his kingdom all things that offend, and them which do iniquity; 42And shall cast them into a furnace of fire: there shall be wailing and gnashing of teeth.”
D. Minister to the saints
1. Heb. 1:14 “Are they not all ministering spirits, sent forth to minister for them who shall be heirs of salvation?”
2. We do not know how they do this work but do so within natural laws (providential ways).

E. Praising God
1. Psa. 103:20 “Bless the L ORD, ye his angels, that excel in strength, that do his commandments, hearkening unto the voice of his word.”
2. Rev. 5:11-14 “And I beheld, and I heard the voice of many angels round about the throne and the beasts and the elders: and the number of them was ten thousand times ten thousand, and thousands of thousands; 12Saying with a loud voice, Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive power, and riches, and wisdom, and strength, and honour, and glory, and blessing. 13And every creature which is in heaven, and on the earth, and under the earth, and such as are in the sea, and all that are in them, heard I saying, Blessing, and honour, and glory, and power, be unto him that sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb for ever and ever. 14And the four beasts said, Amen. And the four and twenty elders fell down and worshipped him that liveth for ever and ever.”

F. Strengthen in trial
1. Mat. 4:11 “Then the devil leaveth him, and, behold, angels came and ministered unto him.”

G. Brought together preachers and sinners
1. An angel sent Philip to the Ethiopian eunuch; Acts 8:26 “And the angel of the Lord spake unto Philip, saying, Arise, and go toward the south unto the way that goeth down from Jerusalem unto Gaza, which is desert.”
2. An angel had Cornelius send for Peter; Acts 10:3, 5 “He saw in a vision evidently about the ninth hour of the day an angel of God coming in to him, and saying unto him, Cornelius…. 5And now send men to Joppa, and call for one Simon, whose surname is Peter:”
3. Yet an angel never proclaimed the message.
   a. The proclamation of the message is given to man.
   b. 2 Cor. 5:11 “Knowing therefore the terror of the Lord, we persuade men; but we are made manifest unto God; and I trust also are made manifest in your consciences.”

H. Appeared in dreams
1. Mat. 1:20 “But while he thought on these things, behold, the angel of the Lord appeared unto him in a dream, saying, Joseph, thou son of David, fear not to take unto thee Mary thy wife: for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Ghost.”
2. Mat. 2:13 “And when they were departed, behold, the angel of the Lord appeareth to Joseph in a dream, saying, Arise, and take the young child and his mother, and flee into Egypt, and be thou there until I bring thee word: for Herod will seek the young child to destroy him.”

I. Minister before God
1. Rev. 8:2 “And I saw the seven angels which stood before God; and to them were given seven trumpets.”
2. Rev. 14:15-19 “And another angel came out of the temple, crying with a loud voice to him that sat on the cloud, Thrust in thy sickle, and reap: for the time is come for thee to reap; for the harvest of the earth is ripe. 16And he that sat on the cloud thrust in his sickle on the earth; and the earth was reaped. 17And another angel came out of the temple which is in heaven, he also having a sharp sickle. 18And another angel came out from the altar, which had power over fire; and cried with a loud cry to him that had the sharp sickle, saying, Thrust in thy sharp sickle, and gather the clusters of the vine of the earth; for her grapes are fully ripe. 19And the angel thrust in his sickle into the earth, and gathered the vine of the earth, and cast it into the great winepress of the wrath of God.”
J. **Bind and guard Satan**
1. **Rev. 9:1** “And the fifth angel sounded, and I saw a star fall from heaven unto the earth: and to him was given the key of the bottomless pit.”
2. **Rev. 20:1-3** “And I saw an angel come down from heaven, having the key of the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand. And he laid hold on the dragon, that old serpent, which is the Devil, and Satan, and bound him a thousand years, and cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up, and set a seal upon him, that he should deceive the nations no more, till the thousand years should be fulfilled: and after that he must be loosed a little season.”

K. **Gathering together God’s elect**
1. **Mat. 24:31** “And he shall send his angels [probably preachers/ messengers here] with a great sound of a trumpet, and they shall gather together his elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other.”
2. **Rev. 7:1-3** “And after these things I saw four angels standing on the four corners of the earth, holding the four winds of the earth, that the wind should not blow on the earth, nor on the sea, nor on any tree. And I saw another angel ascending from the east, having the seal of the living God: and he cried with a loud voice to the four angels, to whom it was given to hurt the earth and the sea. Saying, Hurt not the earth, neither the sea, nor the trees, till we have sealed the servants of our God in their foreheads.”

L. **Harvest God’s crop**
1. As they separate the righteous from the unrighteous, they harvest God’s crop.
2. **Mat. 13:36-43** “Then Jesus sent the multitude away, and went into the house: and his disciples came unto him, saying, Declare unto us the parable of the tares of the field. He that soweth the good seed is the Son of man; the field is the world; the good seed are the children of the kingdom; but the tares are the children of the wicked one. The enemy that sowed them is the devil; the harvest is the end of the world; and the reapers are the angels. As therefore the tares are gathered and burned in the fire; so shall it be in the end of this world. The Son of man shall send forth his angels, and they shall gather out of his kingdom all things that offend, and them which do iniquity; and shall cast them into a furnace of fire: there shall be wailing and gnashing of teeth. Then shall the righteous shine forth as the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Who hath ears to hear, let him hear.”

M. **Protect Saints**
1. **Psa. 34:4-7** “I sought the LORD, and he heard me, and delivered me from all my fears. They looked unto him, and were lightened: and their faces were not ashamed. This poor man cried, and the LORD heard him, and saved him out of all his troubles. The angel of the LORD encampeth round about them that fear him, and delivereth them.”
2. **Psa. 91:11-12** “For he shall give his angels charge over thee, to keep thee in all thy ways. They shall bear thee up in their hands, lest thou dash thy foot against a stone.”
3. **2 Kin. 6:15-17** “And when the servant of the man of God was risen early, and gone forth, behold, an host compassed the city both with horses and chariots. And his servant said unto him, Alas, my master! how shall we do? And he answered, Fear not: for they that be with us are more than they that be with them. And Elisha prayed, and said, LORD, I pray thee, open his eyes, that he may see. And the LORD opened the eyes of the young man; and he saw: and, behold, the mountain was full of horses and chariots of fire round about Elisha.”

N. **Accompany Christ at His return**
1. **Mat. 16:27** “For the Son of man shall come in the glory of his Father with his angels; and then he shall reward every man according to his works.”
2. **Mat. 25:31** “When the Son of man shall come in his glory, and all the holy angels with him, then shall he sit upon the throne of his glory:”
3. **2 The. 1:7** “And to you who are troubled rest with us, when the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with his mighty angels.”
O. Carry departing saints to Abraham’s bosom.

1. Luke 16:22 “And it came to pass, that the beggar died, and was carried by the angels into Abraham’s bosom: the rich man also died, and was buried;”

2. No doubt this still happens even if we do not know how they do it.

P. Gave laws and revelations

1. Acts 7:53 “Who have received the law by the disposition of angels, and have not kept it.”

2. Heb. 2:2 “For if the word spoken by angels was stedfast, and every transgression and disobedience received a just recompence of reward;”

3. Angels revealed information to Daniel:
   a. Dan. 8:16, 19 “And I heard a man’s voice between the banks of Ulai, which called, and said, Gabriel, make this man to understand the vision. 19And he said, Behold, I will make thee know what shall be in the last end of the indignation: for at the time appointed the end shall be.”
   b. Dan. 9:21-23 “Yea, whiles I was speaking in prayer, even the man Gabriel, whom I had seen in the vision at the beginning, being caused to fly swiftly, touched me about the time of the evening oblation. 22And he informed me, and talked with me, and said, O Daniel, I am now come forth to give thee skill and understanding. 23At the beginning of thy supplications the commandment came forth, and I am come to shew thee; for thou art greatly beloved: therefore understand the matter, and consider the vision.”
   c. Dan. 10:10-20 “And, behold, an hand touched me, which set me upon my knees and upon the palms of my hands. 11And he said unto me, O Daniel, a man greatly beloved, understand the words that I speak unto thee, and stand upright: for unto thee am I now sent. And when he had spoken this word unto me, I stood trembling. 12Then said he unto me, Fear not, Daniel: for from the first day that thou didst set thine heart to understand, and to chasten thyself before thy God, thy words were heard, and I am come for thy words. 13But the prince of the kingdom of Persia withstood me one and twenty days: but, lo, Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me; and I remained there with the kings of Persia. 14Now I am come to make thee understand what shall befall thy people in the latter days: for yet the vision is for many days. 15And when he had spoken such words unto me, I set my face toward the ground, and I became dumb. 16And, behold, one like the similitude of the sons of men touched my lips: then I opened my mouth, and spake, and said unto him that stood before me, O my lord, by the vision my sorrows are turned upon me, and I retain no strength. 17For how can the servant of this my lord talk with this my lord? for as for me, straightway there remained no strength in me, neither is there breath left in me. 18Then there came again and touched me one like the appearance of a man, and he strengthened me, 19And said, O man greatly beloved, fear not: peace be unto thee, be strong, yea, be strong. And when he had spoken unto me, I set my face toward the ground, and I became dumb. 20Then said he, Knowest thou wherefore I come unto thee? and now will I return to fight with the prince of Persia: and when I am gone forth, lo, the prince of Grecia shall come.”

Q. Impart God’s will.

1. Acts 5:19-20 “But the angel of the Lord by night opened the prison doors, and brought them forth, and said, 20 Go, stand and speak in the temple to the people all the words of this life.”

2. Acts 10:4-7 “And when he looked on him, he was afraid, and said, What is it, Lord? And he said unto him, Thy prayers and thine alms are come up for a memorial before God. 5And now send men to Joppa, and call for one Simon, whose surname is Peter: 6He lodgeth with one Simon a tanner, whose house is by the sea side: he shall tell thee what thou oughtest to do. 7And when the angel which spake unto Cornelius was departed, he called two of his household servants, and a devout soldier of them that waited on him continually;”

R. Brought answers to prayer

1. Dan. 9:20-23 “And whiles I was speaking, and praying, and confessing my sin and the sin of my people Israel, and presenting my supplication before the Lord my God for the holy mountain of my God; 23Yea, whiles I was speaking in prayer, even the man Gabriel, whom I had seen in the vision at the
beginning, being caused to fly swiftly, touched me about the time of the evening oblation. 22 And he informed me, and talked with me, and said, O Daniel, I am now come forth to give thee skill and understanding. 23 At the beginning of thy supplications the commandment came forth, and I am come to shew thee; for thou art greatly beloved: therefore understand the matter, and consider the vision.”

2. Acts 10:4-7 “And when he looked on him, he was afraid, and said, What is it, Lord? And he said unto him, Thy prayers and thine alms are come up for a memorial before God. 5 And now send men to Joppa, and call for one Simon, whose surname is Peter: 6 He lodgeth with one Simon a tanner, whose house is by the sea side: he shall tell thee what thou oughtest to do. 7 And when the angel which spake unto Cornelius was departed, he called two of his household servants, and a devout soldier of them that waited on him continually;”

S. Present in the church
1. 1 Cor. 11:10 “For this cause ought the woman to have power on her head because of the angels.”
2. Eph. 3:10 “To the intent that now unto the principalities and powers in heavenly places might be known by the church the manifold wisdom of God,”
3. 1 Tim. 5:21 “I charge thee before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ, and the elect angels, that thou observe these things without preferring one before another, doing nothing by partiality.”

VI. Classification of Angels
A. Angels
1. These are just referred to in a general way.
2. These are angels that have no specific designation or specific function.
3. We have seen these in many of the references we have already noticed.

B. Not actually called angels but generally considered such.
1. Cherubim
   a. Mentioned:
      (1) They are mentioned 65 times but only once in the New Testament.
      (2) Gen. 3:24 “So he drove out the man; and he placed at the east of the garden of Eden Cherubims, and a flaming sword which turned every way, to keep the way of the tree of life.”
      (3) Some think they are the living creatures in Revelation.
   b. They were physical, man-made representatives of the heavenly host.
   c. They were winged.
2. Seraphim
   a. They are mentioned in only one context.
   b. Isa. 6:2, 6 “Above it stood the seraphims: each one had six wings; with twain he covered his face, and with twain he covered his feet, and with twain he did fly…. Then flew one of the seraphims unto me, having a live coal in his hand, which he had taken with the tongs from off the altar:”
   c. They had 6 wings.
   d. They were engaged in Divine service and praise around the throne of God.

C. Archangels
1. Name
   a. “Arch” is from ἄρχον (archon) and means “ruler.”
   b. Thus, an archangel is a ruling angel.
2. Mentioned twice:
   a. 1 The. 4:16 “For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first:”
   b. Jude 9 “Yet Michael the archangel, when contending with the devil he disputed about the body of Moses, durst not bring against him a railing accusation, but said, The Lord rebuke thee.”
3. Michael is the only archangel specifically named:
   a. Jude 9 “Yet Michael the archangel, when contending with the devil he disputed about the body of Moses, durst not bring against him a railing accusation, but said, The Lord rebuke thee.”
   b. Rev. 12:7-8 “And there was war in heaven: Michael and his angels fought against the dragon; and the dragon fought and his angels, 8And prevailed not; neither was their place found any more in heaven.”
   c. A probable reference:
      (1) Dan. 10:13, 21 “But the prince of the kingdom of Persia withstood me one and twenty days: but, lo, Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me; and I remained there with the kings of Persia…. 21But I will shew thee that which is noted in the scripture of truth: and there is none that holdeth with me in these things, but Michael your prince.”
      (2) Dan. 12:1 “And at that time shall Michael stand up, the great prince which standeth for the children of thy people: and there shall be a time of trouble, such as never was since there was a nation even to that same time: and at that time thy people shall be delivered, every one that shall be found written in the book.”
   d. Influenced by the Russellites (misnamed, Jehovah’s Witnesses) some now believe Michael the archangel is Jesus.
      (1) If that is the case, then Michael could have rebuked Satan; Jude 9 “Yet Michael the archangel, when contending with the devil he disputed about the body of Moses, durst not bring against him a railing accusation, but said, The Lord rebuke thee.”
      (2) No angel was called the Son of God; Heb. 1:5 “For unto which of the angels said he at any time, Thou art my Son, this day have I begotten thee? And again, I will be to him a Father, and he shall be to me a Son?”

4. Gabriel is also thought to be an archangel.
   a. He is the only other angel called by name.
   b. His individual prominence.
      (1) Dan. 8:16 "And I heard a man’s voice between the banks of Ulai, which called, and said, Gabriel, make this man to understand the vision.”
      (2) Dan. 9:21-22 "Yea, whiles I was speaking in prayer, even the man Gabriel, whom I had seen in the vision at the beginning, being caused to fly swiftly, touched me about the time of the evening oblation. 22And he informed me, and talked with me, and said, O Daniel, I am now come forth to give thee skill and understanding.”
      (3) Luke 1:19, 26 “And the angel answering said unto him, I am Gabriel, that stand in the presence of God; and am sent to speak unto thee, and to shew thee these glad tidings…. 26And in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God unto a city of Galilee, named Nazareth,”

5. This would imply there are greater and lessor angels and thus degrees of authority.

VII. THE WORK OF ANGELS
   A. Ordinary angels
      1. A wide variety of works (many we have already noticed); for example:
      2. Driving spirit horses; 2 Kin. 6:16-17 “And he answered, Fear not: for they that be with us are more than they that be with them. 17And Elisha prayed, and said, L ORD, I pray thee, open his eyes, that he may see. And the L ORD opened the eyes of the young man; and he saw: and, behold, the mountain was full of horses and chariots of fire round about Elisha.”
      3. Gathering the elect and the separation of the good from the bad at the judgment; Parable of the tares, Mat. 13:39-42 “The enemy that sowed them is the devil; the harvest is the end of the world; and the reapers are the angels. 40As therefore the tares are gathered and burned in the
fire; so shall it be in the end of this world. "The Son of man shall send forth his angels, and they shall
gather out of his kingdom all things that offend, and them which do iniquity; "And shall cast them into
a furnace of fire: there shall be wailing and gnashing of teeth."

4. Ministering to the saints; Heb. 1:14 "Are they not all ministering spirits, sent forth to minister
for them who shall be heirs of salvation?"

5. Praise and worship God; Rev. 5:11-12 "And I beheld, and I heard the voice of many angels
round about the throne and the beasts and the elders: and the number of them was ten thousand times
ten thousand, and thousands of thousands: Saying with a loud voice, Worthy is the Lamb that was
slain to receive power, and riches, and wisdom, and strength, and honour, and glory, and blessing."

B. Cherubim

1. They guarded the entrance of Eden; Gen. 3:24 "So he drove out the man; and he placed at the
east of the garden of Eden Cherubims, and a flaming sword which turned every way, to keep the way of
the tree of life."

2. Images of them were fashioned and placed over the Mercy Seat in the Ark of the
Covenant; Exo. 25:18-20 "And thou shalt make two cherubims of gold, of beaten work shalt thou
make them, in the two ends of the mercy seat. "And make one cherub on the one end, and the other
cherub on the other end: even of the mercy seat shall ye make the cherubims on the two ends thereof.
And the cherubims shall stretch forth their wings on high, covering the mercy seat with their wings,
and their faces shall look one to another; toward the mercy seat shall the faces of the cherubims be."

3. Pictures of them were woven into the fabric of the curtains of the Tabernacle; Exo.
26:1 “Moreover thou shalt make the tabernacle with ten curtains of fine twined linen, and blue, and
purple, and scarlet: with cherubims of cunning work shalt thou make them.”

4. They are represented as guarding the throne of God
   a. Psa. 80:1 “Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel, thou that leadest Joseph like a flock; thou that dwellest
      between the cherubims, shine forth.”
   b. Psa. 99:1 “The LORD reigneth; let the people tremble: he sitteth between the cherubims; let the
      earth be moved.”

C. Seraphim

1. Distinct from Cherubim as God is said to be seated above the Cherubim but the
Seraphim stand above God.

2. Their duty seems to be purifying the service of worship to God with holiness,
reverence, and awe.

D. Archangel

1. Protecting and prospering Israel; Dan. 12:1 “And at that time shall Michael stand up, the great
prince which standeth for the children of thy people: and there shall be a time of trouble, such as never
was since there was a nation even to that same time: and at that time thy people shall be delivered, every
one that shall be found written in the book."

2. Gabriel announced the birth of the Savior; Luke 1:26-35 “And in the sixth month the angel
Gabriel was sent from God unto a city of Galilee, named Nazareth, 27To a virgin espoused to a man
whose name was Joseph, of the house of David; and the virgin’s name was Mary. 28And the angel came
in unto her, and said, Hail, thou that art highly favoured, the Lord is with thee: blessed art thou among
women. And when she saw him, she was troubled at his saying, and cast in her mind what manner of
salutation this should be. 30And the angel said unto her, Fear not, Mary: for thou hast found favour with
God. 31And, behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a son, and shalt call his name
JESUS. 32He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest: and the Lord God shall give unto
him the throne of his father David: 33And he shall reign over the house of Jacob for ever; and of his
kingdom there shall be no end. 34Then said Mary unto the angel, How shall this be, seeing I know not a
man? 35And the angel answered and said unto her, The Holy Ghost shall come upon thee, and the
power of the Highest shall overshadow thee: therefore also that holy thing which shall be born of thee shall be called the Son of God.”

3. Warring against Satan.
   a. Rev. 12:7-9 “And there was war in heaven: Michael and his angels fought against the dragon; and the dragon fought and his angels, and prevailed not; neither was their place found any more in heaven. And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.”
   b. This is a vision and probably “symbolizes a spiritual warfare which had been going on from the beginning, but reaches its climax in Christ’s victory over Satan” (Homer Hailey, Revelation: An Introduction and Commentary, p. 274).

4. Announcing the return of Christ; 1 Thes. 4:16 “For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first.”

VIII. THE ANGEL OF JEHOVAH
   A. This phrase is found 50 times in the Old Testament (and 9 times in the New Testament).
   1. Gen. 16:7 “And the angel of the LORD found her by a fountain of water in the wilderness, by the fountain in the way to Shur.”
      a. Gen. 16:10 “And the angel of the LORD said unto her, I will multiply thy seed exceedingly, that it shall not be numbered for multitude.”
      b. Gen. 17:19-20 “And God said, Sarah thy wife shall bear thee a son indeed; and thou shalt call his name Isaac: and I will establish my covenant with him for an everlasting covenant, and with his seed after him. And as for Ishmael, I have heard thee: Behold, I have blessed him, and will make him fruitful, and will multiply him exceedingly; twelve princes shall he beget, and I will make him a great nation.”
      c. The angel of Jehovah says that He would greatly multiply Ishmael’s seed, but then God says He will do it.
   2. Gen. 22:
      a. Abraham is being tempted: asked to sacrifice his son.
      b. He is to offer his son to God; Gen. 22:1 “And it came to pass after these things, that God did tempt Abraham, and said unto him, Abraham: and he said, Behold, here I am.”
      c. When he went to offer his son:
         (1) The Angel of Jehovah speaks to him; Gen. 22:11 “And the angel of the LORD called unto him out of heaven, and said, Abraham, Abraham: and he said, Here am I.”
         (2) The angel of Jehovah speaks in the first person in that Abraham did not withhold Isaac from “me” and He would bless Abraham:
            (a) Gen. 22:12 “And he said, Lay not thine hand upon the lad, neither do thou any thing unto him: for now I know that thou fearest God, seeing thou hast not withheld thy son, thine only son from me.”
            (b) Gen. 22:15-17 “And the angel of the LORD called unto Abraham out of heaven the second time, And said, By myself have I sworn, saith the LORD, for because thou hast done this thing, and hast not withheld thy son, thine only son: That in blessing I will bless thee, and in multiplying I will multiply thy seed as the stars of the heaven, and as the sand which is upon the sea shore; and thy seed shall possess the gate of his enemies;”
3. Jacob’s vision of a ladder with the angels of God ascending and descending on it:
   a. Gen. 28.
   b. Jehovah stood at the top of it and promises to bless him and be with him; Gen. 28:13-15 “And, behold, the Lord stood above it, and said, I am the Lord God of Abraham thy father, and the God of Isaac: the land whereon thou liest, to thee will I give it, and to thy seed; and thy seed shall be as the dust of the earth, and thou shalt spread abroad to the west, and to the east, and to the north, and to the south: and in thee and in thy seed shall all the families of the earth be blessed. And, behold, I am with thee, and will keep thee in all places whither thou goest, and will bring thee again into this land; for I will not leave thee, until I have done that which I have spoken to thee of.”
   c. Jacob refers back to this and tells of the angel of Jehovah appearing to him; Gen. 31:11-13 “And the angel of God spake unto me in a dream, saying, Jacob: And I said, Here am I. And he said, Lift up now thine eyes, and see, all the rams which leap upon the cattle are ringstraked, speckled, and grisled: for I have seen all that Laban doeth unto thee. I am the God of Bethel, where thou anointedst the pillar, and where thou vowedst a vow unto me: now arise, get thee out from this land, and return unto the land of thy kindred.”

4. On Jacob’s returning home:
   a. Gen. 32:24-30 “And Jacob was left alone; and there wrestled a man with him until the breaking of the day. And when he saw that he prevailed not against him, he touched the hollow of his thigh; and the hollow of Jacob’s thigh was out of joint, as he wrestled with him. And he said, Let me go, for the day breaketh. And he said, I will not let thee go, except thou bless me. And he said unto him, What is thy name? And he said, Jacob. And he said, Thy name shall be called no more Jacob, but Israel: for as a prince hast thou power with God and with men, and hast prevailed. And Jacob asked him, and said, Tell me, I pray thee, thy name. And he said, Wherefore is it that thou dost ask after my name? And he blessed him there. And Jacob called the name of the place Peniel: for I have seen God face to face, and my life is preserved.”
   (1) The one he wrestles with is referred to as a man.
   (2) Jacob says he has seen God face to face.
   b. Hos. 12:3-5 “He took his brother by the heel in the womb, and by his strength he had power with God: Yea, he had power over the angel, and prevailed: he wept, and made supplication unto him: he found him in Bethel, and there he spake with us; Even the Lord God of hosts; the Lord is his memorial.”
   (1) Hosea says it was the angel.
   (2) Hosea also says it was Jehovah God.

5. Exo. 3:2-6 “And the angel of the Lord appeared unto him in a flame of fire out of the midst of a bush: and he looked, and, behold, the bush burned with fire, and the bush was not consumed. And Moses said, I will now turn aside, and see this great sight, why the bush is not burnt. And when the Lord saw that he turned aside to see, God called unto him out of the midst of the bush, and said, Moses, Moses. And he said, Here am I. And he said, Draw not nigh hither: put off thy shoes from off thy feet, for the place whereon thou standest is holy ground. Moreover he said, I am the God of thy father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob. And Moses hid his face; for he was afraid to look upon God.”
   a. It is the angel of Jehovah who appears to Moses.
   b. He identifies Himself as Jehovah.
   c. God gives Moses signs to show the Israelites it was Jehovah who appeared to him; Exo. 4:1-8 “And Moses answered and said, But, behold, they will not believe me, nor hearken unto my voice: for they will say, The Lord hath not appeared unto thee. And the Lord said unto him, What is that in thine hand? And he said, A rod. And he said, Cast it on the ground. And he cast it on the ground, and it became a serpent; and Moses fled from before it.”
unto Moses, Put forth thine hand, and take it by the tail. And he put forth his hand, and caught it, and it became a rod in his hand: 4That they may believe that the LORD God of their fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, hath appeared unto thee. 5And the LORD said furthermore unto him, Put now thine hand into thy bosom. And he put his hand into his bosom: and when he took it out, behold, his hand was leprous as snow. 6And he said, Put thine hand into thy bosom again. And he put his hand into his bosom again; and plucked it out of his bosom, and, behold, it was turned again as his other flesh. 7And it shall come to pass, if they will not believe thee, neither hearken to the voice of the first sign, that they will believe the voice of the latter sign.”

6. As the Israelites left Egypt:
   a. Jehovah lead them; Exo. 13:21-22 “And the LORD went before them by day in a pillar of a cloud, to lead them the way; and by night in a pillar of fire, to give them light; to go by day and night: 22He took not away the pillar of the cloud by day, nor the pillar of fire by night, from before the people.”
   b. The angel of God went before them; Exo. 14:19 “And the angel of God, which went before the camp of Israel, removed and went behind them; and the pillar of the cloud went from before their face, and stood behind them:”

7. Exo. 23:20 “Behold, I send an Angel before thee, to keep thee in the way, and to bring thee into the place which I have prepared.”
   a. Some think this angel is Moses.
   b. It does not fit with Moses:
      (1) God’s name is in Him.
         (a) Exo. 23:21 “Beware of him, and obey his voice, provoke him not; for he will not pardon your transgressions: for my name is in him.”
         (b) This is dealing with the nature of God is in Him.
      (2) He has the power to forgive sins.
         (a) Exo. 23:21 “Beware of him, and obey his voice, provoke him not; for he will not pardon your transgressions: for my name is in him.”
         (b) Only Deity has the power to forgive sins.
      (3) He would go before or lead them into the Promised Land (something Moses was not allowed to do).
         (a) Exo. 23:23 “For mine Angel shall go before thee, and bring thee in unto the Amorites, and the Hittites, and the Perizzites, and the Canaanites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites: and I will cut them off.”
         (b) As Israel goes into the land, the Captain of the Lord’s host appears to Joshua with His sword drawn to lead them into the land.
         (c) Jos. 5:13-15 “And it came to pass, when Joshua was by Jericho, that he lifted up his eyes and looked, and, behold, there stood a man over against him with his sword drawn in his hand: and Joshua went unto him, and said unto him, Art thou for us, or for our adversaries? 14And he said, Nay; but as captain of the host of the LORD am I now come. And Joshua fell on his face to the earth, and did worship, and said unto him, What saith my lord unto his servant? 15And the captain of the LORD’s host said unto Joshua, Loose thy shoe from off thy foot; for the place whereon thou standest is holy. And Joshua did so.”
         (d) This Captain accepted Joshua’s worship, which only God can accept.
   c. The fact that He would send the angel shows the Angel of Jehovah is also distinguished from Jehovah.
8. The Angel of Jehovah appears to Samson’s parents: Manoah and his wife:
   a. Jud. 13
   b. He tells them:
      (1) They will have a son.
      (2) He gives them instructions for the woman as she carries the son.
      (3) He gives them instructions for them concerning the son when he is born.
   c. Jud. 13:21-22 “But the angel of the LORD did no more appear to Manoah and to his wife. Then Manoah knew that he was an angel of the LORD. 22And Manoah said unto his wife, We shall surely die, because we have seen God.”
   d. They realized seeing the Angel of Jehovah was equivalent to seeing God.

B. Conclusions:
1. The Angel of Jehovah” is identified with God so He cannot be just a created angel.
   a. The Hebrew uses the definite article.
   b. Thus a specific angel is being referenced.
2. The “Angel of Jehovah” possesses characteristics that can only be ascribed to Deity.
   a. He accepted sacrifices and worship.
   b. He forgives sins.
   c. His nature was that of Deity.
   d. He has the character and authority of Deity.
3. Those to whom the “Angel of Jehovah” is appeared acknowledged Him as Jehovah.
4. The “Angel of Jehovah” is to be distinguished from another who is also designated as Jehovah (Jehovah sent the “Angel of Jehovah”).
5. The “Angel of Jehovah” is to be identified with pre-incarnate Word: Jesus Christ.
   a. Leading Israel during the wilderness wanderings:
      (1) 1 Cor. 10:3-4 “And did all eat the same spiritual meat; 4And did all drink the same spiritual drink: for they drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them: and that Rock was Christ.”
      (2) Exo. 23:20-21 “Behold, I send an Angel before thee, to keep thee in the way, and to bring thee into the place which I have prepared. 21Beware of him, and obey his voice, provoke him not; for he will not pardon your transgressions: for my name is in him.”
   b. Abraham:
      (1) John 8:56-58 “Your father Abraham rejoiced to see my day: and he saw it, and was glad. 57Then said the Jews unto him, Thou art not yet fifty years old, and hast thou seen Abraham? 58Jesus said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Before Abraham was, I am.”
      (2) He saw the Angel of Jehovah:
         (a) At the promise that Sarah would bear a son
         (b) When he was prevented from offering Isaac

Conclusion: The study of angels is a fascinating study, and I hope you have enjoyed it as much as I have. There is, no doubt, much more that could be said. However, let us close with the thought that even though angels are greater than man, they are not to be worshipped: Col. 2:18 “Let no man beguile you of your reward in a voluntary humility and worshipping of angels, intruding into those things which he hath not seen, vainly puffed up by his fleshly mind.” We are to worship God: Rev. 19:10; 22:8-9 “And I fell at his feet to worship him. And he said unto me, See thou do it not: I am thy fellowservant, and of thy brethren that have the testimony of Jesus: worship God: for the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy.… 22And I John saw these things, and heard them. And when I had heard and seen, I fell down to worship before the feet of the angel which shewed me
these things. "Then saith he unto me, 

these things. "Then saith he unto me, See thou do it not: for I am thy fellow servant, and of thy brethren the prophets, and of them which keep the sayings of this book: worship God."

these things. "Then saith he unto me, See thou do it not: for I am thy fellow servant, and of thy brethren the prophets, and of them which keep the sayings of this book: worship God."