***Angels***

1. **Definition** – Angels are supernatural messengers that God uses to execute His divine will.
2. **Creation**
   1. Angels are created beings – Psalm 148:2,5; John 1:3; Colossians 1:16; Revelation 4:11
   2. Angels were created by God’s command – Psalm 148:2, 5
   3. Christ was the agent of their creation – John 1:3; Colossians 1:16
   4. Angels were created for Christ – Colossians 1:16
   5. Angels were created early in the creation week – Job 38:4, 7
   6. Angels were present when God laid the foundations of the earth – Job 38:4, 7
3. **Nature of Angels**
   1. Angels are spirit beings
      1. Hebrews 1:14 suggest that angels are not always confined to physical bodies.
      2. Angels most often come in some physical form (see below) and they also appear in dreams and visions – Matthew 1:20; Acts 10:3
      3. The evidence of demons (which are fallen angels) entering one man (Luke 8:30) also supports the argument that angels are not always confined to a body.
   2. Angels may be invisible at times - Colossians 1:16
   3. Angels posses supernatural abilities – Acts 5:19; 12:7-11; Daniel 6:22; Matthew 28:2; Isaiah 37:36; Luke 20:36
   4. Angels have spatial limitations
      1. Gabriel was traveling with a response to Daniel’s petition and he was withheld for 21 days in one location by spiritual opposition – Daniel 10:12-13
   5. Angels have a moral nature
      1. Angels can sin – Ezekiel 28:16; 2 Peter 2:4
      2. Some angels rebelled – Jude 6; 2 Peter 2:4
      3. Angels will be judged someday; they will be held responsible for their actions – 1 Corinthians 6:3; Jude 6
      4. There are elect (chosen) angels – 1 Tim. 5:21
   6. Angels were most likely created in the image of God.
      1. The classical definition of the image of God usually includes the elements of personality and moral nature of holiness.
      2. Angels appear to meet these qualifications and they are most likely created in the image of God. However, there is no verse in Scripture that says God made angels in His image.
4. **Personality of Angels**
   1. Intellect
      1. Angels possess knowledge
         1. Angels are given the knowledge of divine message to proclaim – Mathew 1:20-23; 2:13; Luke 1:13-17; 2:10-13; Revelation 5:2; 10:1; 11:1; 14:6, 8, 9; 17:7-18; 19:17
         2. Angels have knowledge of some events that happen on earth – Matthew 28:5; 1 Cor 4:9
         3. Angels have knowledge of the future – Genesis 19:13, Zechariah 1:4; Daniel 8:17-26
         4. Angels have limited knowledge; they are not omniscient – Matthew 24:36
      2. Angels can reason with other persons
         1. Involved in intelligent conversations with human beings – Zechariah 1:19, 5; Matthew 28:5; Luke 1:11-20; 26-38
      3. Angels can record data – Ezekiel 40:5-42:20, 47-48
      4. Angels an explain information and give understanding – Daniel 8:16-26; 9:22, 24-27; 10:12,21, ch 11-12
   2. Will
      1. Angels give commands – Genesis 19:12; Matthew 1:24; Acts 1:24
      2. Angels can direct people – Matthew 1:13; Acts 8:26; 27:23
      3. Angels can worship – Deut 32:34; Luke 2:14; Hebrews 1:6; Revelation 5:11-12; 7:11
      4. Angels can rebel – 2 Peter 2:4; Jude 6
      5. Angels can sin – Ezekiel 28:16
      6. Angels can be obedient to God – Psalm 130:20
   3. Emotion
      1. Angels long to look on human salvation – 1 Peter 1:12
      2. Angels rejoice – Job 38:7; possible support Luke 15:10
      3. Angels worship – Deut 32:34; Luke 2:14; Hebrews 1:6; Revelation 5:11-12; 7:11
   4. Relational
      1. Angels interact verbally – Zechariah 1:19, 5, Matthew 28:5; Luke 1:11-20; 26-38
      2. Angels worship – Deut 32:34; Luke 2:14; Hebrews 1:6; Revelation 5:11-12; 7:11
      3. Angels strengthen individuals – Luke 22:43
      4. Angels can kill people – 2 Kings 19:35; 2 Chronicles 32:21; Acts 12:23
      5. Angels can interact with other angels – Zechariah 2:3-4
5. **Physical Characteristics**
   1. Angels appear in many different forms – Revelation 10:1-3; Daniel 10:6
      1. Angels appear in a cloud and rainbow – Revelation 10:1-3
      2. Angels appear as lightning with a body of beryl – Daniel 10:6
      3. Angels can appear in the form of natural elements – Hebrews 1:7
      4. Angels can appear in the form of man – Ezekiel 1:5; 40:5 – Man in the appearance of bronze – Daniel 3:23-28, John 20:12; Acts 1:10; Zechariah 2:1-3. The cherub appears in a body with unique characteristics (See Cherub)

The Unique Characteristics of Angels

* + 1. Some angels have wings – Revelation 14:6; Isaiah 6:2; Ezekiel 10:8, 21
       1. The Seraphim and Cherub both have a specific number of wings – Isaiah 6:2, Ezekiel 10:8, 21 (See Cherub and Seraphim sections for specifics)
       2. Wings are used in worship of God – Ezekiel 1:24
    2. The Cherub have unique body moments – Ezekiel 1:9; 12-14

1. **Abilities**
   1. Angels have supernatural power
      1. The angels powers are not limited to natural laws or limits of man – Acts 5:19; 12:7-11; Daniel 6:22; Matthew 28:2; Isaiah 37:36 “kills 185,000 men” Luke 20:36
      2. Angels can appear in dreams and visions – Matthew 1:20; Ezekiel 40:2; Daniel 4:13; 9:21; Luke 24:23
      3. Angels have power over nature – Daniel 6:22
         1. To shut lions mouths – Daniel 6:22
         2. Can strengthen people – Luke 22:43; Daniel 10:18-19
      4. Angels are able to prophecy future events – Zech 1:4, 4, 5:5-6:15; Daniel 8:17-26
   2. Angels can perform the same tasks as man
      1. Angels speak – Ezekiel 1:5, 11-12, 14, 19; Daniel 4:13; Ezekiel 40:4, 45-46, Matthew 18:20
      2. Angels walk on earth – Zechariah 1:10
      3. Angels preach the gospel – Revelation 14:6
      4. Angels wrestle with man – Daniel 12:4; Hos 12:4
   3. Angels are only limited by the power of God (cannot marry – Matthew 22:30; Mark 13:25; Luke 20:36 have limited power – limited by Christ) – Romans 8:38-39
2. **Limitations**
   1. Angels are permanently in subjection to Christ – Matthew 26:53; Romans 8:38-39; Hebrews 1:4-5, 13-14; 1 Peter 3:22; Revelation 5:12
   2. Angels are bound by the commands of Christ – Matthew 22:30, 26:53; Mark 13:25; Luke 20:36
   3. Angels cannot marry – Matthew 22:30; Luke 20:36
   4. Angels will be in subjection to humans in the future (judged by humans 1 Corinthians 6:3)
3. **Actions of Angels**
   1. Angels derive their actions from the will of God – Revelation 4:11; Colossians 1:16
   2. Angels are sent by God as messengers delivering the messages of God – Luke 1:19; Daniel 4:13; Zechariah 1:11-14; Ezekiel 47:6, 8-12, 13-14, 15-23, 48; Luke 1:11; Matthew 1:20, 2:13; Luke 2:9, 13; Revelation 1:1, Acts 7:53; Galatians 3:19; Hebrews 2:2
   3. Angels are involved in the worship of God in the presence of God. – Revelation 5:11-12; 7:11; Luke 1:19; 2:13-14; 15:10; Matthew 18:10; Is 37:16; Ezekiel 10:4-5, 18-19; Is 37:16; Hebrews 1:6
   4. Angels are sent to meet people’s needs by strengthening, encouraging, and providing – Luke 22:43; Daniel 10:11-12, 18-19
   5. Patrol the earth and seek peace – Zechariah 1:11; Matthew 4:11; Mark 1:13; John 1:51
4. **Names of Angels**
   1. Mal’ak – Hebrew word translated angel or messenger – Strongs #4397
   2. Bene elohim – Hebrew for “sons of God’ – See Job 1:6
   3. Angelos – Greek word translated angel or messenger – Strongs #32
5. **Classification** 
   1. Angels are classified into ranks.
   2. Cherub
      1. The highest “order” or rank of angels
      2. The Cherub are created for the sole purpose to reveal the glory of God, this is accomplished even through their unexplainable characteristics (wheels)
      3. Cherubs are associated with the glory of God.
         1. Are continually in the presence of God – Isaiah 37:16
         2. Are carved on the Temple – Ezekiel 41:18-20, 25
      4. Have unique characteristics
         1. Cherub have multiple faces – Ezekiel 1:6; 10:14-21; 41:18-19
         2. Cherub have four wings with hand underneath – Ezekiel 10:8, 21
         3. Two wings are used for flying
         4. Other two wings are used in touching other wings – Ezekiel 1:11
         5. Wings are used in worship of God – Ezekiel 1:24
         6. Unidentifiable creatures are associated with the Cherub, wheels – Ezekiel 10:12
   3. Seraphim
      1. Means “burning ones” (possibly in reference to their devotion to God) in Hebrew, Isaiah 6:2-3, 6-7 are the only verses in Scripture referring to the Seraphim so conclusions that can be drawn about their classification are rather limited.
      2. Seraphim are described with unique characteristics
         1. They have six wings which are used for specific purposes – Isaiah 6:2
         2. The wings are used for flying and covering of the fact and feet – Isaiah 6:2
         3. Seraphim are associated with God’s holiness – Isaiah 6:3, 7
         4. Seraphim worship God by proclaiming His holiness – Isaiah 6:3
         5. Seraphim reveal the iniquity of man when present in God’s holiness – Isaiah 6:7
         6. Seraphim cover their face and feet from the holiness of God – Isaiah 6:2
   4. Dominions/Powers
      1. There are not unique characteristics to the Dominions and Powers
      2. The meaning of the words are associated with government rule
      3. Dominions means ruler or master of government in power
      4. Christ has authority over dominions and power – Eph 1:19-21, Colossians 1:16
      5. Dominions and powers are associated with ruling in authority and power – Colossians 1:16, Eph 1:21; Jude 8
   5. Chief Prince
      1. The Chief Prince has Authority in title
      2. “Chief Prince” in the Hebrew is “rishon” means first in title or rank
      3. Michael is the only angel that is classified as the chief prince – Daniel 10:21 – “prince”, 12:1 “great” prince
      4. Michael is called the archangel (same position as Satan – See Satan) – Jude 9
      5. The actions of the Chief Prince
         1. The Chief prince is involved with fighting for God – Jude 9; Revelation 12:7; Daniel 10:21
         2. He guards God’s people against Satan’s attack – Revelation 12:7
6. **Angel of the Lord**
   1. Activities of:
      1. Condemns – Psalm 35:5; 2 Sam 24:15-17; Psalm 35:6
      2. Opposes/Prohibits – Balaam – Numbers 22:22-35
      3. Makes covenants/leads people – Judges 22:1-4
      4. Appeared to People – Gideon – Judges 6:11-12; 13:3, 13-21; 20-22
      5. Gives instruction
         1. 2 Samuel 24:15-17; 2 Kings 1:3, 15; Acts 8:26
         2. Appears in dreams – Matthew 1:20-24, 2:13-15
      6. Provides and protects – 1 Kings 19:5-8; Psalm 34:7; Acts 12:7
      7. Defends – Zechariah 3:1-7; 12:8
   2. Identity of:
      1. There is a great deal of speculation over the identity of the Angel of the Lord. Many believe that the Angel of the Lord is a pre-incarnate Christ. However, there is an unsubstantial amount of evidence to prove this as the case. It is clear, from the frequency of this appearance, that the Angel of the Lord plays a great role in the scriptures. Others still yet believe that the Angel of the Lord is merely a created angel sent out by God to play some very important roles in the ministry of God on earth and in Heaven. However, there is yet a third view. This third view believes that the angel of the Lord is the self-manifestation of God himself. There is a great deal of Biblical evidence for this view, although unable to substantiate one-hundred percent. It is a strong argument and one that does seem to be born out in the Scripture. The following is an outline of texts that seem to point to the Angel of the Lord being a self-manifestation of God himself.
         1. Speaks in reference to Himself and the Trinity – Is 6:8
         2. God speaks as the Angel of the Lord to Moses through the burning bush – Exodus 3:1-22; Genesis 32:24; Hosea 12:4
         3. The Angel of the Lord has the name of God in him – Genesis 23:2
         4. Is referred to as the “Captain” and accepts worship – Joshua 5:13-15
         5. Is called the servant of – Acts 27:25
   3. Other Biblical support – Ex 33:14; Is 6:3
7. **Number**
   1. The bible never specifies the exact number of angels. There are references to immensely large numbers of angelic hosts. We cannot know the exact number, but we can be assured that there are a very large number.
   2. There are more than 12 legions of angels – Matthew 26:53
   3. John estimates 100 million angels surrounding the throne in Revelation – Revelation 5:11
   4. Adjectives like myriad and innumerable are used to describe their number – Hebrews 12:22
   5. The number of angels will never change (because angels cannot procreate c.f Matthew 22:30) and the number has remained the same since creation
8. **Angels in the Torah**
   1. The angel of the Lord comes to Abraham and Hagar with divine messages.
   2. The angel of the Lord wrestles with Jacob
   3. The angel of the Lord speaks to Moses from the burning bush
   4. The angel of the Lord guards Israel in the wilderness
   5. The angel of the Lord rebukes Balaam
9. **Angels in the Writings**
   1. Angels as Killers
      1. “*When David saw the angel who was striking down the people…”*
      2. 2 Samuel 24:17
      3. 2 Chronicles 21:15
   2. Angels as Providers
      1. “Men ate the bread of angels; he sent them all the bread they could eat.”
      2. Psalm 78:25; 1 Kings 19:5
   3. Angels as Messengers
      1. “While Araunah was threshing wheat, he turned and saw the angel; his four sons who were with him hid themselves.” 1 Chronicles 21:20
      2. 1 Chronicles 21:27
   4. Angels charged by the Lord
      1. Charged to protect – Psalm 91:11
      2. Charged to praise – Psalm 103:20
      3. Psalm 148:2
10. **Angels in the Prophets**
    1. Angels are involved in worshiping God - Ezekiel 10:4-5, 18-19, Isaiah 6:3
    2. Angels give prophecy of the end time – Zechariah 2:8-13, 3-5; 6:15; Daniel 7:15-28; 9:21-27; 11:1-12:4
    3. Angels are delivering messages to prophets – Zechariah 1:14-15; 5-6:15; Daniel 4:13, 9:21-27; Ezekiel 47:6, 8-12, 13-14, 15-23, 48
    4. Angels are involved in delivering scripture – Daniel 12:4
11. **Angels in the Gospels**
    1. Angels play a very active role in the gospels
    2. On numerous occasions God sends angels to declare divine messages – Matthew 1:20; 2:13; 28:5-7; Luke 1:11; Luke 2:9, 13, Luke 24:5-7
    3. In fact, God sends an angel to break the 400 Silent years – Luke 1:11
    4. Angels have a significant ministry to Christ – See Angels and Christ
    5. Christ reveals much about angels in His teachings – Matthew 13:39, 41, 47; 18:10; 22:30; 26:53; Mark 13:25-27; Luke 1:19; 12:8, 9, 20:36
12. **Angels in the Acts**
    1. Angels are involved in supernatural rescues – Acts 5:19; 12:7-11
    2. Angels deliver divine messages – Acts 8:26; 10:4-7; 27:23
    3. Angels guide believers – Acts 8:26; 27:23
    4. Angels are involved in the initiation of the gospel to the Gentiles – Acts 10:4-7
13. **Angels in the Epistles**
    1. Angels and Believers
       1. Believers should not worship angels – Colossians 2:18
       2. Believers will judge angels – 1 Corinthians 6:3
       3. Angels cannot separate us from the love of God – Romans 8:38
    2. Angels and Christ
       1. Angels are lower than Christ – Hebrews 1:4-5; 1 Peter 3:22
       2. Angels worship Christ – Revelation 5:12
       3. Christ did not take on the nature of angels – Hebrews 2:16
14. **Angels in the End Times**
    1. Christ will return with his angels – Matthew 16:27
    2. The Lord will come with the voice of the archangel – 1 Thessalonians 4:16
    3. The angels will gather the elect – Mathew13:27
    4. The angels will take out the wicked, the angels will remove stumbling blocks – Matthew 13:39,41,48
    5. Angels will give many divine announcements, they unfold God’s end time plan – Revelation 5:2, 10:1, 11:1, 14:6-9; 17:7-8; 19:17
    6. Angels will hear Christ’s confession of the faithful of Sardis – Revelation 3:5
    7. Angels will worship God in the end times – Revelation 5:11-12; 7:11
    8. Angels will be given the ability to seal the 144,000 – Revelation 7:1-3
    9. Angels will be involved in bringing the prayers of the saints before God – Revelation 8:3
    10. Angels will administer the wrath of God
        1. Trumpet Judgments – Revelation 8, 9:13-21
        2. Bowl Judgments – Revelation 15-17
    11. Michael and his angels will fight the Dragon and his angels in heaven. Michael will win – Revelation 12:7
    12. An angel will preach the gospel – Revelation 14:6
    13. There will be angels in the tabernacle of heaven – Revelation 5:16-17
    14. One angel will be given the power to scorch men with fire – Revelation 14:18
    15. Angels will cast Satan into the bottomless pit – Revelation 20:1-3
    16. An angel will measure the New temple – Ezekiel 40:5-42; 20:47-48
15. **Angels and the Word of God**
    1. God used angels to establish (ordain) the mosaic law – Acts 7:53, Galatians 3:19, Hebrews 2:2
    2. God used an angel to give John the book of Revelation – Revelation 1:1
16. **Angels and Christ**
    1. Angels continually had a special ministry with the Christ – John 1:51
    2. Announced birth of Christ – Matthew 1:20; Mathew 2:13
    3. Angels celebrated Christ’s birth and announced it to the Shepherds – Luke 2:9, 13
    4. Angels ministered to Christ after temptation – Matthew 4:11; Mark 1:13
    5. The Father gave disposal of angels to the Son – Matthew 26:53
    6. An angel strengthened Christ in Gethsemane – Luke 22:43
    7. An angel rolled away the stone from the tomb and announced the resurrection of Christ – Matthew 28:2; Luke 24:2; John 20:12
17. **Angels and Believers**
    1. When believers are confronted by angels, their response should be a belief and obedience in the message from God – Luke 1:13-20
    2. Their response should not be fear – Luke 1:12-13; 2:10: Matthew 28:5
    3. Angels are concerned about the needs of people, especially children – Matthew 18:10
    4. Angels are not to be worshipped, but considered equal in the sense as “brethren” doing the Lord’s work – Revelation 22:9
    5. Angels cannot always be believed but must be tested – 1 John 4:1
    6. Angels minister to those who will believe – Hebrews 1:14