

Part 3 Angels 101

A sermon series by Pastor Byron Chesney Th.D.

† Colossians 1:16

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:

As we enter into this 3rd study of our series, Angels 101, we can look back and see some of the answers to common questions that we have covered.

1. We saw that angels are always referred to in the masculine sense and never the feminine. So the concept of female or women angels is not based upon Scripture but rather man's ideas. That show that used to come on back in the 90's, Touched By An Angel, was nowhere near being Scriptural.
2. As to whether people become angels when they die, we proved from the Bible that no, people do not become angels when they die. Angels and humans are two separate beings. – this would also answer the question of “do babies that die become angels in Heaven?” That would be NO. Just as grown-ups, their spirit and soul goes to heaven but they do not turn into angels.

Someone asked me after that message, well, I know we don't become angels but what does happen to us when we die.

Let me briefly cover that... When people die their spirit and soul return unto the Lord and their body remains in the ground until being raised up by Christ in the resurrection where it will reunite with the Spirit and Soul and be changed into an incorruptible body.

Ecclesiastes 12:7 Then shall the dust return to the earth as it was: and the spirit shall return unto God who gave it.

When Stephen was stoned just before he died he cried out to heaven and said this: **Acts 7:59:** And they stoned Stephen, calling upon God, and saying, Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.

Paul said this: **2 Corinthians 5:6-8**

6 Therefore we are always confident, knowing that, whilst we are at home in the body, we are absent from the Lord:

7 (For we walk by faith, not by sight:)

8 We are confident, I say, and willing rather to be absent from the body, and to be present with the Lord.

So, our spirit and soul goes to Heaven. We do not turn into angels.

In our last message from Angels 101 we looked at different uses of the phrase, “angel of the LORD, and “angel of the Lord,” in both the Old and New Testaments. We saw in the O.T. it was referring to a preincarnate Christ, or a Christophany and in the N.T. it was referring to an angel sent by God. Then we spent the rest of the time making the case for the “sons of God” as it is used in the O.T. meaning angels. We saw in the Book of Genesis how the sons of God that married daughters of men were most likely fallen angels which are now demons and they possessed men's bodies and had relationships with women.

I realized after we were finished that I failed to take you to the New Testament to show you what “**sons of God**,” refers to in the N.T. So we will look briefly at that tonight and then cover some other things.

The phrase, “sons of God,” is used 6 times in the New Testament and each time it is referring to the same thing; those redeemed by Christ. Look at it with me in: **John 1:12-13:** But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name: 13 Which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.

Of course this is speaking of when Jesus came into the world. The Bible says those that received Him and believe on his name, meaning Jesus, he gave them the power to become the “sons of God.”

Also, in the 1st Epistle of John we read this: **1 John 3:1-2:** Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God: therefore the world knoweth us not, because it knew him not. 2 Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is.

We know the Epistles of John was written to saved people. So what we just read was referring to those who have trusted Jesus as their Savior are called “**the sons of God**.”

You will also find in the Book of Romans and in Philippians the phrase “**the sons of God**,” and each time it is referring to those that have been redeemed in Christ.

So, as we said last week, “**sons of God**,” in the O.T. was angels, but “**sons of God**,” in the N.T. are those that have been saved and not angels.

Alright, now, for the past 3 messages on angels, counting this one, we have began by reading one verse from the Bible, **Colossians 1:16**, however, we have not really spoken much about that verse. So tonight I would like for us to deal with it as well as a few other things.

Colossians 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: For by him were all things created The “**him**” Paul is referring to in this verse is the Lord Jesus Christ, the express image of God, the Son of God, the Only Begotten. As I have mentioned over and over in my preaching, the Lord Jesus is the person of the Godhead that is responsible for the creation. This is indicated in many different places in the Bible but probably the most compelling evidence is found in the Gospel of **John 1:1-3:** In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 The same was in the beginning with God. 3 All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made.

visible and invisible Since Jesus created “all things,” then that means He created the angels as well, this would include the visible and invisible.

whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers then we are given this list of beings that He created; **thrones, dominions, principalities, and powers**. At first this list of beings seems pretty mysterious but the Bible refers to these beings elsewhere and they appear to be some order of angels or celestial beings.

Colossians 2:10 And ye are complete in him, which is the head of all **principality** and **power**:

Colossians 2:15 *And* having spoiled **principalities** and **powers**, he made a shew of them openly, triumphing over them in it.

Ephesians 1:19-21: And what is the exceeding greatness of his power to us-ward who believe, according to the working of his mighty power, 20 Which he wrought in Christ, when he raised him from the dead, and set him at his own right hand in the heavenly places, 21 Far above all **principality**, and **power**, and might, and **dominion**, and every name that is named, not only in this world, but also in that which is to come:

Ephesians 3:9-10: And to make all men see what is the fellowship of the mystery, which from the beginning of the world hath been hid in God, who created all things by Jesus Christ: 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,

Ephesians 6:11-12: Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. 12 For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against **principalities**, against **powers**, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.

Romans 8:38-39: For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor **angels**, nor **principalities**, nor **powers**, nor things present, nor things to come, 39 Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

So, there are various orders and ranks of angels out there. But I want you to be aware of the reason the Bible mentions these angelic beings... and that is to show that Jesus Christ is above ALL of them. He is the one that is worthy to be praised and worshiped, not angels.

We are told how much higher the Lord Jesus is over angels in the following passages in the Book of Hebrews:

Hebrews 1:1-8

1 God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets,

2 Hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds;

3 Who being the brightness of his glory, and the express image of his person, and upholding all things by the word of his power, when he had by himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high;

4 **Being made so much better than the angels, as he hath by inheritance obtained a more excellent name than they.**

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?

6 And again, when he bringeth in the firstbegotten into the world, he saith, And let all the angels of God worship him.

7 And of the angels he saith, Who maketh his angels spirits, and his ministers a flame of fire.

8 But unto the Son he saith, Thy throne, O God, is for ever and ever: a sceptre of righteousness is the sceptre of thy kingdom.

As this passage describes, Jesus is the one that is worthy to be worshiped and the angels worship Him. And, of course, a very familiar passage in the Bible that explains that Jesus is the Supreme Authority to be worshiped: **Philippians 2:9-10** Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name: 10 That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth;

We are never to worship an angel. The Bible is very clear on that and warns us against it. A few passages concerning angel worship are found in the following places:

Paul in his letter to the Church at Colossae: **Colossians 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,

The Apostle John in his visions in the Book of Revelation when he was before an angel: **Revelation 19:10**: 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.

You would have thought that John had learned his lesson but he was so overwhelmed with what he saw and heard that he attempted to worship an angel again: **Revelation 22:8-9**: And 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. 9 Then saith he unto me, See thou do it not: for I am thy fellowservant, and of thy brethren the prophets, and of them which keep the sayings of this book: worship God.

So, while it may be very tempting to worship an angel simply because of their holy presence or the deliverance of a message from God, we are cautioned not to do so.

Host

Often times in the Bible we read of "host." The word host means a company of soldiers. When it comes to angels it is a company of angels. Some of the places we find this word used concerning angels are:

Luke 2:13-15 And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the **heavenly host** praising God, and saying, 14 Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men. 15 And it came to pass, as the angels were gone away from them into heaven, the shepherds said one to another, Let us now go even unto Bethlehem, and see this thing which is come to pass, which the Lord hath made known unto us.

Psalms 33:6: By the word of the LORD were the heavens made; and **all the host** of them by the breath of his mouth.

So throughout the Bible you will hear the term "host" being used to refer to as a group of angels.

† All Scripture from the Authorized King James Version