

**Adapted from Systematic Theology, Wayne Grudem, Chapter 19 Summary  
Angels: What are angels? Why did God create them?**

*Angels are created, spiritual beings with moral judgment and high intelligence, but without physical bodies (though can sometimes take on human form).*

*(<https://www.waynegrudem.com/category/audio/systematic-theology>)*

**A. What are Angels?**

1. Created Spiritual Beings (Neh 9:6, Col 1:16)
  - a. Exercise Moral Judgment (2Pe 2:4)
  - b. High Intelligence (Mat 28:5, Rev 4:11)
  - c. Spirits without physical bodies (Heb 1:14, Luk 24:39)
  - d. They do not have physical bodies; therefore, we cannot see them unless God gives us the ability (Num 22:31, 2Ki 6:17, Luk 2:13). Sometimes they temporarily take on bodily form (Heb 13:2)
2. Other Names for Angels
  - a. Sons of God (Job 1:6)
  - b. Holy Ones (Psa 89:5, Psa 89:7)
  - c. Spirits (Heb 1:14)
  - d. Watchers (Dan 4:13)
  - e. Thrones, dominions, principalities, and authorities (Col 1:16)
3. Other kinds of heavenly beings in Scripture
  - a. Cherubim (Gen 3:24, Psa 18:10, Exo 25:22)
  - b. Seraphim (Isa 6:2-7)
  - c. Living creatures (Eze 1:5-14, Rev 4:6-8)
4. Rank and Order (Jud 1:9, Rev 12:7-8, 1Th 4:16)
5. Names of specific angels. 2 mentioned:
  - a. Michael (Jude 1:9, Rev 12:7-8)
  - b. Gabriel (Dan 8:16, Luk 1:18-19)
6. Only one place at a time (Luk 1:26, Dan 10:12-14)
7. How many angels? (Deu 33:2, Psa 68:17, Heb 12:22, Rev 5:11)
8. Individual guardian angels? (Psa 91:11-12)
9. Angels do not marry (Mat 22:30, Psa 103:20, Eph 1:21, 2Pe 2:11, Heb 2:7, 1Co 6:3)
10. Power of angels (Ps 103:20; Eph. 1:21; 2 Pet 2:11; Heb 2:7; 1 Cor 6:3)
11. Who is the Angel of the Lord?
  - a. Sometimes = God Himself (Gen 16:13, Gen 31:11, 13, Exo 3:2, 6)
  - b. Sometimes an angel sent by God (2Sa 24:16, Psa 34:7, Luk 1:11)

## B. When Were Angels Created?

- 1) Before the seventh day of Creation (Gen 2:1, Exo 20:11)
- 2) First day? (Job 38:6-7)
- 3) God has not given much information
- 4) Angels rebelled before the Fall (2 Pe 2:4, Jud 1:6, Gen 1:31)

## C. The place of Angels in God's Purpose

- 1) Show greatness of God's love and plan
  - a) We are more like God than angels (never said "made in the image of God") (Gen 1:26)
  - b) We will have authority over angels (1Co 6:3)
  - c) Angels cannot bear children (Mat 22:30)
  - d) God's love for mankind: no angels were saved (2Pe 2:4, Heb 2:16, Rev 5:9)
- 2) Remind us unseen world is real (Act 23:8, 2Ki 6:17, Heb 12:22)
- 3) Examples for us (Mat 6:10, Rev 5:11-12)
- 4) They carry out some of God's plans: Messages (Act 8:26), Judgment (2Ch 32:21, Mat 16:27)
  - a) Patrol Earth: Zec 1:10-11
  - b) War against demonic forces: Dan 10:13
  - c) Proclaim Christ's coming: 1Th 4:16, Rev 18:1-2
- 5) They directly glorify God (Rev 4:8, Psa 103:20, Isa 6:2-3, Luk 15:10, 1Pe 1:12)

## D. Our Relationship to Angels

- 1) We should be aware of angels in daily lives
  - a) Though we do not ordinarily see or hear evidence of this heavenly worship, it certainly enriches our sense of reverence (Heb 12:22-23; 1 Cor 11:10)
  - b) Angels can sometimes take human form to make "inspection visits" (Heb 13:2, Gen 18:2-5)
  - c) Angels can suddenly deliver from danger or distress (Dan 6:22, Act 12:7-11, Psa 91:11-12)
- 2) Cautions regarding our relationship to angels
  - a) Beware of receiving false doctrine (Gal 1:8, 2Co 11:14, 1Ki 13:18-19)
  - b) Do not worship, pray to, or seek (Col 2:18, 1Ti 2:5)
  - c) Do angels appear to people today? (Act 8:26, Act 10:3-6, Heb 13:2, 2Co11:14)