

Christian Doctrine

Angels (Part 1)

The Creation of Angels and Their Attributes

The Creation of Angels

Angels are a part of God's creation (Ps. 148:5; Col. 1:16). The exact time of their creation is not stated in Scripture, but as with all creation, it would have been before the end of the creation week. The Bible does not state exactly how many angels were created, but it does reveal that the number is extremely large (Dan. 7:10; Heb. 12:22; Rev. 5:11 – the descriptions imply a number that cannot be counted). Angels were created to praise God and to serve Him in carrying out His will (Ps. 148:1-3; Heb. 1:7).

The Original State of Angels

Along with all of God's creation, angels were considered "very good" (Gen. 1:31). Just like mankind, all angels were originally without sin and holy. Even after Satan rebelled, the angels who did not rebel with him remained in a state of holiness ("holy angels" - Mark 8:38).

What Are Angels Like?

- They have personality (intellect, emotion, and will - I Pet. 1:12; Luke 15:10; II Tim. 2:26).
- They are spirit beings who can (on occasion) take on human form (Gen. 18; John 20:12; Heb. 13:2).
- They do not marry, have children or die (Luke 20:34-36).
- They do not have gender (are not male nor female), though in the Bible they are always referred to in male terms (Matt. 28:2-7; Mark 16:5-6; Luke 24:4; Acts 1:10).
- They are exceptionally knowledgeable, though not omniscient like God (II Sam. 14:20; Matt. 24:36).
- They are stronger and more powerful than humans (II Pet. 2:11; Ps. 103:20). This was seen when they freed the apostles from prison (Acts 5:19) and rolled the stone away from Jesus' tomb (Matt. 28:2).

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