The Fall of Some Angels

Two main passages of Scripture reveal the fall of Lucifer, the angel often called “Satan” in Scripture: Ezekiel 28:11-19 and Isaiah 14:12-19. From these passages, we learn that Satan was once a cherub who enjoyed the highest position among the other angels in heaven. But this position eventually led to the sin of pride. Satan’s pride led to a discontentment with his position and a desire to be like God. As a consequence for this great sin, Satan was cast out of heaven. Other angels had joined Satan in this rebellion and were cast out as well. Revelation 12:4 seems to indicate that the angels who were cast out made up 1/3 of all the angels. These angels remain serving Satan to this day (referred to as “his angels” - Mt. 25:41).

The Classification of Angels

➢ **Unfallen Angels (those who did not rebel with Satan)**
  - The **Archangel**: The highest ranking angel, who carries out special tasks. He announced the birth of Christ (Luke 1:26-38), will announce the future return of Christ (I Thess. 4:16-18), etc. His name is Michael (Jude 9).
  - **Cherubim**: High ranking angels who guard God’s presence and holiness (Gen. 3:24; Ex. 26:1; Ps. 99:1).
  - **Seraphim**: Angels who are servants around the throne of God (Is. 6:1-7). Described as six-winged angelic beings, differing from cherubim who have four wings (Ezek. 10:20-21).
  - **Governmental rulers**: Angels who serve to govern the affairs of the universe (Eph. 1:21, 3:10; Col. 1:16).

➢ **Fallen Angels (those who rebelled with Satan)**
  - **Bound angels**: Angels currently bound with chains in complete darkness (in Tartarus) awaiting judgment (II Peter 2:4; Jude 6). Though the Bible does not say exactly what it was, there was apparently some sin these angels committed that resulted in this greater punishment.
  - **Free angels**: Angels who serve Satan in his war against good angels and God’s people (Matt. 12:26; Eph. 6:12; Rev. 12:7-9). Often called demons or unclean spirits.
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Christian Doctrine
Angels (Part 2)
The Angelic Fall and Its Consequences

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