

# Christian Doctrine

## Angels (Part 2)

### The Angelic Fall and Its Consequences

#### *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  $\frac{1}{3}$  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, named Michael ([Jude 9](#)), carries out special tasks and is described as a protector and warrior ([Rev. 12:7-9](#)). He announces the future return of Christ ([I Thess. 4:16-18](#)).
- 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.