

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 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.

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