

Angel Armies:     **“The Order and Characteristics of Angels”**  
Lesson 8

1. **Archangels:**     This term is used to denote “covering angels” with the rank of having other angels under their command. According to Scripture, there were three Archangels created by God and are two Archangels are now operating in the Kingdom of God; the third was Lucifer, now satan who rebelled and was cast out of heaven.

**Examples:**

- IThess. 4:16-     “For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first.”
  - Shouts and trumpets heralded the arrival of monarchs/rulers – Heavenly equivalents proclaim the return of Jesus Christ.
  
- Jude 9-     “Yet Michael, the archangel, in contending with the devil, when he disputed about the body of Moses, dared not bring against him a reviling accusation, but said, “The Lord rebuke you!”
  - Early Jewish writings record the story about the devil disputing with Michael over the body and burial of Moses – whom God said He would bury him. Rather than bring any kind of argument with the devil – Michael simply declared “The Lord rebuke you!”  
Probably is good wisdom for us not to enter into arguments or verbal dialogue with the enemy; just “rebuke him in the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ.”
  
- Ezek. 28:14-     “You were the anointed cherub who covers, I establish you; You were on the holy mountain of God; you walked back and forth in the midst of fiery stones.”
  - Biblical references are made to both Adam and King Tyre who were kings in their own rights who were overcome by pride.
  - But vv. 14-15 definitely is referring to Lucifer and his fall. “The anointed cherub who covers indicates high office with authority and responsibility to protect and defend [cover] the holy mountain of God, which is an allusion to God’s Throne. This high order and specific placement of Lucifer prior to his fall afforded unique opportunity to bring glory to God. V. 13 – indicates musical ability within his being suggesting his role included leading heaven’s choirs in worship of the Most High. His fall was occasioned by his seeking to have this glory for himself.

**Lucifer:** The original name for satan before he fell into sin and rebellion against God.

1. Isa. 14:12- “How you are fallen from heaven, O lucifer, son of the morning! How you are cut down to the ground. You who weakened the nations!”

Satan’s downfall was caused by two things:

1. Pride that presumed to supplant God’s rule with his own.
  2. A self-will that asserted independence from the Most High.
2. Ezek. 28:13-14 “You were in Eden, the garden of God; every precious stone was your covering: the sardius, topaz, and diamond, beryl, onyx, and jasper, sapphire, turquoise, and emerald with gold. The workmanship of your timbrels and pipes was prepared for you on the day you were created. You were the anointed cherub who covers.”
  3. Luke 18:10- Jesus said: “I saw satan fall from heaven like lightning...”
    - Jesus was present in Heaven eternal when satan and the angels rebelled and He witnessed the judgment God made against them.
    - Jesus was also speaking in the context of vv. 17-20:
      - “The seventy returned with joy, saying, “Lord, even the demons are subject to us in Your name.

**Gabriel-** Gabriel is mentioned five times in scripture. Mentioned as “the man Gabriel...” Every time Gabriel is mentioned, he brings a specific message and the presence of the Lord.

Thus, he is termed the “Messenger Angel.”

1. Daniel 8:16-19- An audible voice called Gabriel by name to come to the help of Daniel so that he could understand the meaning of the vision shown to him.
2. Dan. 9:20-27- Gabriel was “caused to fly swiftly, and touched me-Daniel.”
3. Dan. 10 – God responded to Daniel’s intercession immediately by sending Gabriel, but this angel had to fight for 21 days and needed the assistance of another angel – Michael, in order to get through to the prophet.
  - Luke 1:19- To which Jesus responded He had witnessed satan cast out of heaven – and v. 19-20: “behold, I give you the authority to trample on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy and nothing will by any means hurt you.  
Nevertheless do not rejoice in this, that the spirits are subject to you, but rather rejoice because your names are written in heaven.”
4. Gabriel announced and declared his mission to Zacharias concerning the birth of John the Baptizer.

5. Luke 1:26- Gabriel is sent to Mary in the city of Nazareth in Galilee to announce to her she was chosen by God to bring forth the Messiah. He gave her all the instructions she needed to know.

**Michael**- Michael is seen to be involved in warfare and arguing with the devil, he has warring angels under his covering, and he is particularly used to defend Israel. The term warring angel is used four times in scripture to describe Michael.

1. Daniel 10:21- Michael is described as “Your Prince.”
2. Daniel 12:1- “At that time Michael shall stand up, the great prince who stands watch over the sons of your people.”
3. Jude 9- “Yet Michael the archangel, in contending with the devil, when he disputed about the body of Moses, dared not bring against him reviling accusation, but said, “The Lord rebuke you.”
4. Rev. 12:7-9 “Michael and his angels fought against the dragon; and the dragon fought and his angel.”

## **2. Cherubim and Seraphim:**

### **Cherubim:**

1. Gen. 3:24- Set to guard the entrance at the Tree of Life in the Garden of Eden. “So He drove out the man; and He place cherubim at the east of the garden of Eden, and a flaming sword which turned every way, to guard the way to the tree of life.”
2. Psa. 99:1- They guard the Throne of God  
“The Lord reigns; Let the people tremble! He dwells between the cherubim...”
3. Exodus 25:18-25 Two Cherubim are fashioned from gold to be placed in the Holy of Holies and there on the Mercy Seat is where the Lord said He would meet with the priest. Heb. 9:5.
4. John 20:12- As Mary came to Jesus’ tomb- “And she saw two angels in white sitting, one at the head and the other at the feet, where the body of Jesus had lain.” These were covering angels protecting – guarding the body of the Lord.

There are many more mentions of Cherubim in scripture – 90 times in the O.T.

### **Seraphim:**

1. Isa. 6:2, 3, 6- In the aftermath of the death of the good King Uzziah.  
“...above it stood seraphim; each one had six wings: with two he covered his face, with two he covered his feet, and with two he flew. And One cried to another and said: “HOLY – HOLY – HOLY is the Lord of Hosts; the whole earth is full of His glory.”

- The ministry of Seraphim are closely related to the Throne and the praises of God – they are constantly glorifying God – extolling His nature and attributes and apparently supervising heaven’s worship.
- Possibly, they are the angels of Ps. 148:2 – praising God.
- The Cherubim are positioned beside and around the Throne of God – Psa. 99:1, Rev. 4:6.
- The six winged Seraphim are seen as hovering above the Throne as they minister in worship.

### **3. Other Categories of Angels:**

#### **1. Guardian Angels:**

Matt. 18:2,10- “And He called a child to Himself and stood him in their midst... See that you do not despise one of these little ones, for I say to you, that their angels in heaven continually behold the face of My Father who is in Heaven.”

#### **2. Four Living Creatures:**

1. Ezek. 1: 4-28 Had four wings and four faces and followed the Spirit.
2. Rev. 4:8- “Six wings and four faces are mentioned.

#### **3. Strong Angel:**

Rev. 5:2- A strong or mighty angel proclaiming a message from God with a loud voice.

#### **4. Angel with Great Authority:**

Rev. 18:1- “After these things I saw another angel coming down from heaven, having great authority and the earth was illuminated with His glory.”

#### **5. Angel of a Specific Church:**

1. Rev. 1:20b- The seven stars are the angels of the seven churches.  
“The seven stars are the angels of the seven churches, and the seven lamp-stands which you saw are the seven churches.”
2. Rev. 2 & 3 – our English word “Angel” comes from the Greek word – Angelos meaning messenger or courier.
  - In this case to the seven churches, it is believed 1. It was a literal angel sent to warn the churches. 2. It was a senior human elder in authority and under God’s command sent to warn the churches.

#### **4. Angel of the Lord:**

##### **1. Angel of His Presence-**

Isa. 63:9- Speaking of the Presence of the Lord with Israel in the wilderness wanderings.

“In all their affliction He was afflicted, and the Angel of HIS Presence saved them...”

2. Ex. 23:20-23- The angel of whom God said “for My name is in Him.” Supernatural presences were thought to dwell within their name, thus this angel had God’s being dwelling within Him. This reference is believed to be the Pre-existent Son of God – Jesus before He took human flesh who could then take on the form of an angel.

“Behold, I send an Angel before you to keep you in the way and to bring you into the place which I have prepared. Beware of Him and obey His voice; do not provoke Him, for He will not pardon your transgressions; for My name is in Him.”

3. Ex. 33:14, 15- “And he said, My presence will go with you, and I will give you rest. Then he [Moses] said to Him, If Your presence does not go with us, do not bring us up from here.”

### **Angel of the Lord:**

1. Theophany- A visible appearance of the Lord Jesus Christ before His incarnation. Before His incarnation as a human being, the Second Person of the Godhead could appear in the form of an angel.
2. Dan. 3 – “**The Fourth Man**” who appeared with the three Hebrew young men in the burning fiery furnace at the time of their great trial to preserve their lives, comforts them, and demonstrates to the prideful pagan King Nebuchadnezzar that God, and not mere man, was in ultimate control of human history.
3. Gen. 18- Three strangers visited Abram when he was encamped at Mamre. Two of these “men” v. 22, later went to Sodom and visited Lot to warn him and his family to flee before the wrath of God would come to Sodom because of their unrepentant attitude. Obviously, angels have the ability to metamorphosize [change shape and form] and materialize or de-materialize at will. They can appear as human being. Evidently, the Second Person of the Trinity also had this ability before He took on human flesh in the incarnation.

### **4. Characteristics of Angels:**

1. Language forms-
  - I Cor. 13:1- ““If I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I become sounding brass, or a clanging cymbal.”
    - o A possible language from unknown to man.
  - Speak in dialects known to man – many instances throughout scripture.
  - Scripture indicates that angels both speak softly and shout.
  - Sing praise to God and before man.
2. Some have wings: some have two, some four, some six.

3. Garments-  
Matt. 28:2-4- wear garments white as snow.  
Act. 1:9-11 Two angels appear as men in white clothing.
  
4. Lightning-  
Luke 10:18- Jesus commenting on His Pre-existence in heaven said that He “beheld satan as lighting fall from heaven.”  
Ezek. 1:4, 7, 14- A fire enfolding itself – brightness was round about it... they sparkled like the color of burnished brass... the living creatures ran... as the appearance of a flash of lightning.
  
5. Instruments-  
IThess. 4:16- They use trumpets to herald the Kings coming.  
Rev. 8:2, 6- Seven angels with seven trumpets. Particularly when announcing God’s will, and preparation for judgment.
  
6. Appearance as Men-  
Gen. 19: 1, 5, 8, 10- There are many accounts of this.  
Heb. 13:2- We need to remember hospitality to strangers because some have entertained angels unawares.  
 Angles may look, talk, act like, dress like normal people from various cultures and ethnic origins. Clarence the angel on movie “It’s A Wonderful Life.”
  
7. Winds and Fire-  
Heb. 1:7- “Of the angels he [God] said: Who makes His angels spirits, and His ministers a flame of fire.”  
Psa. 104:4- O.T. verse quoted in Hebrews.
  
5. **Don’t be a Sadducee-**
  1. They did not believe in angels, Resurrection or the Spirit.
    - Acts 23:8- “For the Sadducees say that there is no resurrection, neither angels, nor Spirit...”
  
  2. 2Kings 6:15-17 Prophet Elisha could see and sense angels; others could not.
    - Angels may be present and unperceived.
    - May be present and unseen, but felt or heard.
    - Might be seen by one and not by another.
    - You can grow in your spiritual sensitivity.
    - You will be astonished when you do see angels.
    - The reality comes: Greater are they with us than they in the world.