



# Week 7: Angels

## Day 1 Reflection

### TRUTH

Stories and images of Angelic beings abound in our culture. So much so that it can be difficult to determine if what we believe about angels is rooted in Scripture or just folklore. For today's reflection, we will examine some of the things that the Bible teaches us about angels.

Read the statements below and mark them True or False. Then look up the corresponding verses to see if you are correct. If the statement is originally written as False, rewrite it to make it a true statement.

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| _____Angels are created Beings.                         | Nehemiah 9:6                                    |
| _____Angels cannot sin.                                 | 2 Peter 2:4                                     |
| _____Angels have physical bodies.                       | 1 Corinthians 15:39-40, Hebrews 1:14            |
| _____All angels are equals with no ranking hierarchy.   | Jude 9  |
| _____Angels can fly.                                    | Revelation 14:6                                 |
| _____Angels can be saved.                               | 1 Peter 1:10-12, Luke 15:10                     |
| _____Man will always be a little lower than the angels. | 1 Corinthians 6:2-3                             |
| _____Scripture records how many angels there are.       | Revelation 5:11                                 |
| _____Angels have names.                                 | Luke 1:19, Revelation 12:7 -8                   |
| _____There is only one kind of angel.                   | Genesis 3:24, Isaiah 6:1-3,<br>Revelation 4:6-8 |

How would you describe what the Bible says about angels? Journal your explanation. Can you just marvel at our imaginative God and His amazing creation? Won't it be awesome to see these heavenly hosts face to face?

## Day 2 Reflection

### TRUTH

Angels are messengers of the Lord God. In fact, the word angel means messenger. At times they deliver good news of impending births, such as John the Baptist and Jesus in Luke Chapter 1. Sometimes they rescue people such as imprisoned Peter, in Acts 12 or shut the mouths of lions in Daniel 6. But sometimes, an angel of God deals with evil. Evil men and Evil spirits. For today's reflection read the following verses and note in each instance what the angel was doing.

- 2 Chronicles 32:20-21 (Background for these verses is that Jerusalem was under attack by the Assyrians.)
- Daniel 10:10-13
- Acts 12:20-23
- Jude 9
- Revelation 12:7-8

### EVIDENCE

Have you heard of the term "deconstruction"? It is unfortunately something that seems to be heard of more increasingly nowadays. At a high level it is a process that someone would go through when they start questioning, doubting, and potentially rejecting what they know about Christianity.

To familiarize yourself with this topic, refer to the following article on gotquestions.org: <https://www.gotquestions.org/deconstruction.html>

A quote from the article:

To say, "Deconstruction means choosing easier beliefs" is an oversimplification. And yet deconstruction almost always means adopting views palatable to the unbelieving world. All too conveniently, it means moving away from positions on

sexuality, gender, salvation, sin, hell, and other issues not embraced by popular culture. The vast majority who claim to be deconstructing move with the flow of their surrounding culture, not against it. This movement demands “safe space” to ask difficult questions. Yet, ironically, modern deconstruction often settles for easy, comfortable answers. Or it simply chooses which aspects of faith to retain based on personal preference.

How would you hold a discussion with someone who is doubting? Have you doubted? What helped you in the process?

It is also important to recognize the difference between deconstruction and honest doubt. Watch this short clip to see what Alisa Childers has to say on the topic: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jxFpG9vt3gM>

### **Day 3 Reflection**

#### **TRUTH**

Today we will read about Daniel’s encounter with an angel located in Daniel Chapter 10. The first part of this chapter is a vision Daniel had after he had fasted for how long? v. 2. The next 8 verses describe what scholars believe to be the pre-incarnate Christ. Does verse 6 sound like our King as He appeared in Revelation 1?

Then in verse 10, enter the angel. Many believe it is Gabriel. What encouragement does he give Daniel in verses 11 & 12? What attitude did Daniel have before the Lord God as he prayed?

There is so much in this chapter, but for today, look at what happened right after Daniel started praying. Yes, his prayer was heard and then something spiritual happened. Something in the heavenlies moved!

What difference would it make in your prayer life if you believed, really believed, that God may very well be sending out a messenger to you or deploying an angel on your behalf as soon as your prayer was uttered? What difference would it make to live in light of the truth that prayer causes the unseen to move and act on our behalf??

Oh, dear one! How can we continue to be a prayerless people when God desires to move on our behalf in such a way!

Humble yourself and cry out to Him this moment with your deepest concern! He hears! He moves!

## TACTICS

Yesterday we introduced the topic of deconstruction. The article presented yesterday was all about what it means and gave great Bible references for how we should approach our understanding of the topic. We should also remember the difference between deconstruction and honest doubt.

Today we will be using the Alisa Childers Podcast as a resource – you might have already listened to her previously in this study. In September 2019, she interviewed Dominic Done about his process of doubt and deconstruction. They speak about the process he went through but ultimately where he landed when it comes to faith and Christianity.

Spoiler Alert: Dominic Done is a speaker and author of *When Faith Fails: Finding God in the Shadow of Doubt*. He is also Professor of Applied Theology at George Fox University, and a teacher at Westside A Jesus Church. He has a Master's Degree in Theology from the University of Oxford and is currently working on his PhD at the University of Oxford with his supervisor Alister McGrath. (Source: <https://www.pursuingfaith.org/about-1>)

Listen to the interview here:

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=um-Y2\\_sS\\_Mw&list=RDLVum-Y2\\_sS\\_Mw&index=1](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=um-Y2_sS_Mw&list=RDLVum-Y2_sS_Mw&index=1)

In another podcast / YouTube video, Alisa Childers hosted Sean McDowell. This was in September 2020. The interview has this overview statement:

It seems like every time we turn around there is another high-profile Christian who announces they've lost their faith. Why does this seem to be happening now? Sean McDowell joins me to talk about his conversations with deconstructed Christians, the nature and pressure of being a public Christian, and what role that might play in all the deconstruction stories we are seeing.

To watch the full video, use this link: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nJyLkfox-GYY&list=RDLVnJyLkfoxGYY&start\\_radio=1&rv=nJyLkfoxGYY&t=0](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nJyLkfox-GYY&list=RDLVnJyLkfoxGYY&start_radio=1&rv=nJyLkfoxGYY&t=0)

Here is a shorter video, which is an extract from the above, where Sean provides a five-minute overview on how he proposes engaging with someone who is deconstructing: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7L4elljDWIc>

## Day 4 Reflection

### TRUTH

Angels are created spiritual beings with moral judgment. When Satan sinned, all the angels had a choice to make. Some angels chose to follow the devil. These angels who sinned against God and who continue to work evil in the world are called demons. Demons will never have the choice to receive salvation. They were doomed to an eternity in the lake of fire the moment they aligned themselves with Satan.

In the Old Testament, what did the pagan nations worship? Read 1 Corinthians 10:20. Who were the nations really worshipping? To see what type of behavior this worship brings about, read 2 Chronicles 33:1-10. What does the worship of false gods and idols cause people to do? Interestingly, this passage of Scripture is not speaking about the pagan nations. Manasseh is a King of Judah, God's chosen King for His people! How awful!

But are we really any different? Today, we might not kneel before a physical idol, but we may have some areas in our life where we worship a false god. Money? Influence? Power? Achievement? Status? Take time to go before the True God, humble yourself, and ask Him to expose any worship of false gods.

### CHURCH HISTORY & ALTERNATE WORLDVIEWS

Pastor Nate is blessing us today with a teaching on the topic of Spiritualism, Relativism, and Progressive Christianity. Take notes as you listen to this teaching. It is prevalent in our world today, but one thing we do know – on Christ the solid rock we stand, all other ground is sinking sand!\*

Here is the link to the video teaching: <https://youtu.be/YZF8rbRp5Tc>

Note some of the key points that you want to remember below:

\*Here is the link to the song if you'd like to have a listen today: <https://music.youtube.com/watch?v=1pxodbm9sr0> (sometimes you just need a good hymn!) Also, there are many different versions of the hymn online, but I found this one and enjoyed it.

## Day 5 Reflection

### TRUTH

The redeemed people of God will worship with angels. Read Revelation 5:11-14. Can you just imagine this scene? The noise, the light, the movement, the dancing, the singing! Oh, dear one, why can't this be our worship experience here? Is there anything in Scripture that would indicate that we cannot worship with angels while on earth? Yes, we do not see them, but they are here with us. Rejoicing in the Lamb and ministering to God the Father is their desire and one of the main reasons they were created. Why wouldn't they want to join us on a Sunday morning?

What difference would it make in your worship if you thought about being in the presence of angels when you are singing in church on Sunday? Try it and see what happens.

### DIGGING DEEPER

While you talk with friends, colleagues, family, you might come across individuals who are not so much deconstructing but doubting. Today, we provide you with some links to articles on the topic that might help you with how you could have conversations with individuals in this season of their life:

- Sean McDowell, son of Josh McDowell, went through a period of doubt. In his words: "I grew up as the son of an influential apologist, Josh McDowell. Even though my parents taught me how to understand my faith, live it, and defend it, I found myself having serious doubts as a college student in the mid 90s. What was that like? How did my parents respond?" Here's the story.  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WN8q9My7CO4>
- Can you Doubt towards Faith? By Sean McDowell  
<https://seanmcdowell.org/blog/can-you-doubt-towards-faith>
- Alisa Childers also went through a period of doubting. Read her testimony here: <https://www.alisachilders.com/blog/i-never-expected-to-doubt>