



Doctrine Discussion Guide

Week 11 | Angels

What are some of the popular views of angels in our culture? Which of those views come from the Bible and which from other sources?

Let's dive into some of the passages to understand more about angels.

Theological Truths

While you won't have time to look up all of these passages, take some time to read through this list, look up some of the passages (bold are suggested), and talk about what you find. Use the questions below for discussion.

Who are angels?

- Created beings (Nehemiah 9:6; Psalm 148:1-6; Job 38:4-7; Colossians 1:16)
- Personal beings (Mark 16:5; Genesis 18:2)
- Holy and shining beings (Daniel 8:13; Psalm 148:4)
- Sons of God (Job 1:6; Genesis 6:2-4; 2 Peter 2:4-8; Jude 1:5-6; Matthew 8:31; Revelation 20:1)
- Powerful beings (2 Peter 2:11; Joshua 5:13-15)
- There are millions of them (Daniel 7:10; Matthew 26:53; Hebrews 12:22)
- Exist in some authority structure (Ephesians 3:10; Colossians 1:16)
- They don't marry (Matthew 22:30)
- Protect God's people (Matthew 18:10; Acts 27:23-24; Luke 16:22)

Named angels in the Bible

- Michael (Jude 1:9; Daniel 10:12-14, 12:1)
- Gabriel (Luke 1:26-38; Daniel 8:17, 9:21-27)
- Lucifer (Isaiah 14:12-15)

Groups of angels

- Cherubim (Genesis 3:24; Ezekiel 28:14)
- Seraphim (Isaiah 6:6-7)
- What do angels do?
- Worshipers of God (Isaiah 6:1-3; Luke 2:14; Hebrews 1:6)
- Messengers of God ("Angelos" in Greek means messenger)
- War against Satan and his demons (Daniel 10:10-14; Revelation 12:7, 8)
- Give special protection to God's people (Psalm 91:11-12; Hebrews 1:13-14, 13:2)

- At least some of them play harps! (Revelation 5:8)

Questions for discussion

- How are angels similar to humans?
- How are they different?
- How are they limited?
- How are they powerful?
- Should we worship angels? (see Revelation 19:10; Colossians 2:18)
- Should we fear angels?
- Should we seek out angels?
- Why are angels a topic of interest in our culture?

Read the Big Idea:

Angels are created beings who are meant to worship and serve God, protect God's people, and carry out God's commands. While they are powerful beings and we may interact with them, our study of them should point us to our Creator to worship him.

- Why are we fascinated by angels? Why should our fascination with angels point us back to God?
- We can interact with angels without being aware. It's also clear that when people in the Bible were visited by angels, people knew what they were.
 - In light of that, do we need to do anything to be aided by angels or prepared to interact with angels?
 - Beyond potentially being protected or aided by angels, how else does God help us when we are in need?
- The Spirit indwells all believers. God's presence is in all of us. What does that mean in terms of where we seek help and strength in a world where angels are present?