

LAYMAN'S SCHOOL OF TRAINING
HOLE 2 - ADVANCED BIBLE STUDY SEMINAR
LECTURE 5 - THE MINISTRY OF ANGELS

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1. What is the meaning of the word "Angel?"

In the Bible, the word **angel** is AGGELOS in the Greek (pronounced ang'-el-os) and simply means "**messenger**" or one who is sent. By implication it also refers to a pastor.

The word messenger or angel is used in three distinct ways:

i) Referring to a spirit being as part of the heavenly angelic host.

Luke 2:13 (NASB) *"And suddenly there appeared with the **angel** a **multitude of the heavenly host** praising God."*

Matt 26:53 (NASB) *"Or do you think that I cannot appeal to My Father, and He will at once put at My disposal more than **twelve legions of angels?**" (ie. up to 72 000)*

ii) Referring to a manifestation of God Himself.

Gen 31:11-13 (NASB) *"Then the **angel** of God said to me in the dream, 'Jacob,' and I said, 'Here I am.'*

12 *And he said, 'Lift up, now, your eyes and see that all the male goats which are mating are striped, speckled, and mottled; for I have seen all that Laban has been doing to you.*

13 ***I am the God of Bethel**, where you anointed a pillar, where you made a vow to Me; now arise, leave this land, and return to the land of your birth.' "*

iii) To apply to men of the five-fold ministry (i.e. Apostles, Prophets, Evangelist, Pastors and Teachers - **Eph 4:11**).

Revelation 1:11,20 & 2:1 (NASB) *"Write in a book what you see, and send it to the **seven churches**; to Ephesus and to...*

20 *...The seven stars are the **angels** of the seven churches...*

1 *To the **angel** (Pastor) of the church in Ephesus write..."*

Here the word "angel" applies to the **Pastors** of the seven churches.

John was instructed to WRITE a Divine message to the Pastors of the 7 churches, and not to some angelic being.

2. Why did God create angels?

God created the angels to **worship** and **serve** Him.

Neh 9:6 (NASB) *"Thou alone art the Lord. Thou hast made the heavens, the heaven of heavens with all their host...and the **heavenly host** (angels) **bows down before Thee.**"*

Psa 103:20,21 (NASB) *"Bless the Lord, you His angels, Mighty in strength, who perform His word, **Obeying the voice of His word!***

21 *Bless the Lord, all you His hosts, You who **serve Him, doing His will.**"*

3. How many angelic beings are referred to by name in the Bible?

The Bible speaks of **three** heavenly dignitaries called **archangels**. The word **arch** simply means **chief**.

i) **Lucifer**, whose name means **morning star**, or Venus, also called satan or the devil.

As Venus reflects the sun in the early morning, so satan was to reflect the glory of Christ (as all children of God ought to).

Jesus is the true bright morning star (as the sun is a 100,000 times brighter than Venus). He is THE source of light, not a mere reflection...

Rev 22:16 (NAS) "I, Jesus, have sent My angel to testify to you these things for the churches. I am the root and the offspring of David, **the bright morning star.**"

Lucifer - Greek: = light-bearer. This was his name before he sinned and rebelled against God. Since his fall he continues to disguise himself as an **angel of light (2 Cor 11:3,13-15)**. Once Lucifer ceased to dwell in the presence of Christ he ceased to be a light-bearer or reflector. 'Morning Star' is a title truly belonging to Christ, therefore expectedly to be usurped by Antichrist.

Rev 12:7-10 (NASB) "And there was **war in heaven, Michael and his angels waging war with the dragon. And the dragon and his angels waged war,**

8 and they were not strong enough, and there was no longer a place found for them in heaven.

9 and the **great dragon** was thrown down (to earth), the **serpent of old** who is **called the devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world; he was thrown down to the earth, and his angels (now demons) were thrown down with him.**

10 and I heard a loud voice in heaven, saying, 'Now the salvation, and the power, and the kingdom of our God and the authority of His Christ have come, for the **accuser of our brethren** has been thrown down, who accuses them before our God day and night.' "

Isa 14:12 (NASB) "How you have fallen from heaven, **O star of the morning (Lucifer - KJV), son of the dawn!** You have been **cut down to the earth, You who have weakened the nations!"**

Here is the only time the word Lucifer appears in the Bible, and only in the KJV.

(It is evident that nations with very little Christian influence, who largely worship demons have been drastically weakened and impoverished by the devil, e.g. India, Somalia, etc. Don't ever say the devil looks after his own. That is a lie. He knows not how.)

ii) **Michael**, whose name means **who is like God**, was the warrior archangel who stood for and warred on behalf of Israel.

Rev 12:7 (NASB) "And there was **war in heaven, Michael and the angels waging war with the dragon...**"

Dan 12:1a (NASB) "Now at that time **Michael, the great prince who stands guard over the sons of your people (Israel) will arise.**"

Michael now stands for the true Jews, those who have a covenant with God through their faith in Jesus Christ. (**Rom 2:28,29; 9:6-8**)

Jude 9 (NASB) "But **Michael the archangel, when he disputed with the devil and argued about the body of Moses, did not dare pronounce against him a railing judgment, but said, 'The Lord rebuke you.'**"

Rail - Webster's: to utter vehement denunciation against, use of abusive language.

Moses is the only man who was physically buried by God. (**Deut 34:5-6**)

iii) **Gabriel**, whose name means **man of God**, was God's messenger who carried divine communications to men.

Luke 1:19-20 (NASB) "And the angel answered and said to him, 'I am **Gabriel, who stands in the presence of God; and I have been sent to speak to you** (Zechariah - Father of John the Baptist), and to bring you this good news.

20 And behold, you shall be **silent and unable to speak until the day when these things take place, because you did not believe my words, which shall be fulfilled in their proper time.'**"

Luke 1:26-38 Read at home. Here Gabriel appears to Mary to announce the conception of Christ.

4. Do angels have the power to make themselves visible to men?

Yes, there are numerous cases in the Bible where angels have appeared to men.

Luke 2:8-11 (NASB) "And in the same region there were some shepherds staying out in the fields, and keeping watch over their flock by night.

9 And an **angel of the Lord suddenly stood before them**, and the glory of the Lord shone around them; and they were terribly frightened.

10 And the angel said to them. 'Do not be afraid; for behold, I bring you good news of a great joy which shall be for all the people;

11 for today in the city of David there has been born for you a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.' "

Heb 13:2 (NASB) "Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by this some have **entertained angels** without knowing it."

ILLUSTRATION: Lady on Hole-1 whose husband left her and so decided to commit suicide after putting her 2 little ones to bed. An angel (who looked just like a man) intervened as she was to start swallowing a bottle of sleeping pills, encouraged her, directed her to CFC, and parted with these words, "You can't contact me, but I'll contact you again if necessary".

5. What is the nature of angels?

They are **intelligent** and wise (*Matt 24:36*); **patient** (*Num 22:22-35*); **meek** (*2 Pet 2:11*); **joyful** (*Luke 15:1-10*); **modest** (*1 Cor 11:10*); **holy** (*Mark 8:38*); **glorious** (*Luke 9:26*); **immortal** (*Luke 20:36*); **powerful** and **mighty** (*2 Thes 1:7-10*); **obedient** (*Psa 103:20*); **limited** in knowledge (*Mark 13:32*); and are always spoken of as male beings not as being sexless as some teach from *Luke 20:34-36*. They have **wills** (*Isa 14:12-14*); spirit bodies with hands, feet, eyes, voice, head, mouth, hair, face and other parts and passions as men do (*Judges 13:16, Dan 10:5-21; Rev 8:1-9:21*).

They need no rest (*Rev 4:8*); eat food (*Ps 78:25*); can appear visible and invisible (*Num 22:35; Heb 13:2*); can travel at **inconceivable speed** (*Rev 8:13; 9:1*); can ascend and descend (*Gen 28:12*); and can speak languages (*1 Cor 13:1*).

6. What are Seraphim's?

They are angelic beings who have a ministry before the throne of God and are pictured in the Bible as having six wings.

Isa 6:1-3 (NASB) "In the year of King Uzziah's death, I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, lofty and exalted, with the train of His robe filling the temple.

2 Seraphim stood above Him, each having **six wings**; with two he covered his face, and with two he covered his feet, and with two he flew.

3 And one called out to another and said, '**Holy, Holy, Holy, is the Lord of hosts, The whole earth is full of His glory.**' "

7. What are Cherubim's?

They are angelic beings which are pictured in the Bible as guarding and covering the throne of God. They have **four wings** and **four faces**:- of a man, a lion, an ox, an eagle and feet like a calf. They move with the speed of lightning. They are connected to wheels, which look like a wheel within a wheel and are full of eyes all around.

Ezek 1:5-28; 10:1-22. Read at home.

8. What are Zoa?

These are often referred to as **living creatures**. There are only 4 of them. They are similar to Cherubims except they only have one head and are full of eyes all around and within. However they have **six wings** like

the Seraphim. One is like a lion, the second one like a calf, the third one like a man, and the fourth one like a flying eagle.

Rev 4:6-8 (NASB) "...and before the throne there was, as it were, a sea of glass like crystal; and in the centre and around the throne, **four living creatures** full of eyes in front and behind.

7 And the first creature was like a **lion**, and the second creature like a **calf**, and the third creature had a face like that of a **man**, and the fourth creature was like a **flying eagle**.

8 And the four living creatures, each one of them having **six wings**, are full of eyes around and within; and **day and night they do not cease to say, "Holy, holy, holy, is the Lord God, the Almighty, who was and who is and who is to come."**

Rev 7:11-12 (NASB) "And all the angels were standing around the throne and around the elders and the **four living creatures**; and they fell on their faces before the throne and **worshipped God**,

12 saying, '**Amen, blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honour and power and might, be to our God forever and ever. Amen.**' "

Rev 19:4 (NASB) "And the twenty-four elders and the **four living creatures** fell down and **worshipped God** who sits on the throne saying, 'Amen. Hallelujah!' "

9. How many angels of God are there?

The host of God's angels is innumerable.

Luke 2:3 (NASB) "And suddenly there appeared with the angel **a multitude of heavenly host** praising God."

Heb 12:22 (NASB) "But you have come to Mount Zion and to the City of the living God, and to **myriads of angles.**"

22 (KJV) "...**an innumerable amount of angels.**"

22 (TCNT) "...**to countless hosts of angels.**"

Rev 5:11 (NASB) "And looked, and I heard the voice of **many angels** around the throne and living creatures and the elders, and **the number of them was myriads of myriads, and thousands of thousands.**" (Of means multiply)

Myriad - Oxford: An indefinite great number.

One Bible scholar specializing in numbers computed this to be 100 trillion angels.

10. How powerful are the angels of God?

Angels are **mighty in strength** but they are not omnipotent (all powerful) like God.

Psa 103:20 (NASB) "Bless the Lord, you His **angels, Mighty in strength**, who perform His word, obeying the voice of His word!"

2 Kings 19:35 (NASB) "Then it happened that night that the **angel** of the Lord went out and **struck 185 000 in the camp of the Assyrians**; and when men rose early in the morning, behold all of them were dead."

Acts 12:21-23 (NASB) "Then on an appointed day **Herod**, having put on his royal apparel, took his seat on the rostrum and began delivering an address to them.

22 And the people kept crying out, 'The Voice of a god and not of a man!'

23 And immediately an **angel** of the Lord **struck him** because he did not give God the glory, and he was (first) eaten by worms and (only then) died."

The historian **Josephus** says Herod agonized 5 days before he died.

11. In what area do angels minister?

i) Angels minister **FOR** the redeemed of the Lord.

Heb 1:14 (NKJ) "Are they (the angels) not all ministering spirits sent forth to minister **FOR** those who will inherit salvation? (i.e. for those who have committed their lives to Jesus as their Lord).

Heb 1:14 (RSV) "Are they not all ministering spirits **sent forth to serve, FOR** the sake of those who are to obtain salvation?"

Heb 1:14 (Williams) "Are not the **angels** all **attending spirits** (waiting for our instructions) (Phillips) **commissioned (by God) to serve (Berkeley) FOR** the assistance of **those who are to inherit salvation.**"

Remember that we are created only a little lower than God - Elohim (**Psa 8:5**).

Angels are lower than God's children in His divine order of creation (See point 13).

Angels are the servants of God's redeemed children.

Rev 22:9 (Phillips) "I (the angel) am a fellow **servant** to you (John) and to your brothers, to the prophets and to those who keep the words of this Book (that's us)."

Matt 4:11 (NASB) "Then the devil left Him (Jesus), and behold, **angels** came and **began to minister to Him.**"

Psa 34:7 (NASB) "The **angel** of the Lord **encamps around those who fear Him, and rescues them.**"

Psa 91:11-12 (NASB) "For He will give His **angels** charge concerning you, **To guard you in all your ways. 12 They will bear you up in their hands, Lest you strike your foot against a stone.**"

1 Kings 19:5-8 (NASB) "And he (Elijah) lay down and slept under a juniper tree; and behold, there was an **angel touching him, and he said to him, 'Arise, eat.'**

6 Then he looked and behold, there was at his head a bread cake baked on hot stones, and a jar of water. So he ate and drank and lay down again.

7 And the **angel** of the Lord came again a second time and **touched him** and said, 'Arise, eat, because the journey is too great for you.'

8 So he arose and ate and drank, and **went in the strength of that food forty days and forty nights to Horeb, the mountain of God.**"

Elijah was fed by an angel and was sustained by that meal for 40 days as he went on a 290 km journey.

Matt 18:10 (NASB) "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."

(E.g. My son Mark fell down 2 high steps while in his walking ring. When I arrived on the scene, his head was on the brick paving with his feet in the air, screaming at the top of his voice, but without a mark or a bruise. Thank God his angel protected him.)

Acts 12:7,13-15 (NASB) "And behold, an **angel** of the Lord suddenly appeared, and a **light shone** in the cell; and he **struck Peter's side** and roused him saying, 'Get up quickly.' And his chains fell off his hands."

13 And when he (Peter) knocked at the door of the gate, a servant-girl named Rhoda came to answer.

14 And when she recognized Peter's voice, because of her joy she did not open the gate, but ran in and announced that Peter was standing in front of the gate.

15 And they said to her. 'You are out of your mind! But she kept insisting that it was so. And they kept saying, '**It is his angel.**'"

This shows how strongly the early church believed in the ministry of angels to look after God's children.

Dan 6:22 (NASB) "My God sent His **angel and shut the lions mouths, and they have not harmed me inasmuch as I was found innocent before Him; and also toward you, O King, I have committed no crime.**"

NB. We stop our angels from ministering to us by speaking contrary to what God's word says. Conversely, our angels will continue to minister for us as we **hold fast to our confession of faith. (Heb 4:14)**

Psa 103:20 "Bless the Lord, you His **angels, mighty in strength who perform His word, obeying the voice of His word.**"

NB. We are the one's who must **give voice** to His Word with a bold confession of faith.

Eccl 5:6 (NASB) "Do not let your **speech cause you to sin** and do not say in the presence of the **messenger**

of God (angel - KJV) that it was a mistake. Why should God be angry on account of your voice and destroy the work of your hands?"

ii) Angels bring **answers to prayers**.

God sent the answer the **first day** Daniel prayed, but because of demonic spiritual resistance in the heavenlies, it only came through on the 21st day when Michael came to help. Michael became available to help on this assignment 21st day and was dispatched because of Daniel's perseverance in prayer.

Dan 10:12-13 (NASB) *"Then he (the angel) said to me, 'Do not be afraid, Daniel, for from the **first day** that you set your heart on understanding this and on humbling yourself (in prayer) before your God, your words were heard, and **I have come in response to your words.***

13 *But the prince of the kingdom of Persia (a demon) was withstanding me for **twenty-one days**; then behold, Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me..."*

iii) Angels lead sinners to **Gospel workers**.

Acts 11:13-14 (NASB) *"And he (Cornelius) reported to us how he had seen the **angel standing in his house**, and saying, 'Send to Joppa, and have Simon, who is also called Peter, brought here;*

14 *and **he shall speak words to you by which you will be saved, you and all your household.**' "*

An angel told Cornelius where to find Simon Peter who would be able to tell him how to get saved.

12. Should we worship angels?

No - We are forbidden to worship angels.

Rev 19:10a (NASB) *"And I (John) fell at his feet to worship him (the angel). And he said to me, '**Do not do that...**' "*

13. What are some other interesting facts about angels?

i) The church will judge angels.

1 Cor 6:3a (NASB) *"Do you not know that **we shall judge angels?**"*

ii) Angels do **not** understand salvation and cannot teach it.

1 Pet 1:12b (NASB) *"...**those who preached the gospel** to you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven - **things into which angels long to look.**"*

iii) Angels do **not** understand grace, only law.

2 Pet 2:4 (NASB) *"For if **God did not spare angels when they sinned**, but cast them into hell and committed them to pits of darkness, reserved for judgment."*

Hell - Strongs: tartaroo (tar-tar-o'-o); from Tartaros (the deepest abyss of Hades); to incarcerate in eternal torment.

Jude 1:6 (NASB) *"And **angels** who did not keep their own domain, but abandoned their proper abode, He has kept in eternal bonds under darkness for the **judgment** of the great day."*

iv) Angels will know the names of Christians who witness.

Luke 12:8 (NASB) *"And I say to you, everyone who confesses Me before men, the **Son of Man shall confess him also before the angels of God.**"*

That's another reason why every Christian should do Hole-3, the Fishers of Men course.

v) Angels rejoice over one sinner who repents.

Luke 15:10 (NASB) *"In the same way, I tell you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents."*

vi) Angels do not rule the world to come - we do!

Heb 2:5-8 (NASB) *"For He did **not subject to angels the world to come**, concerning which we are speaking. **6** But one has testified somewhere, saying, 'What is man, that Thou rememberest him? Or the son of man, that Thou art concerned about him?*

7** Thou hast made him for a little while lower than the angels (ie. mortal); Thou hast crowned him with glory and honour, And **hast appointed him over the works of Thy hands;

***8** Thou hast put all things in subjection under his feet. For in subjecting all things to him, He left nothing that is not subject to him. But now we do not yet see all things subjected to him.' "*

HOMEWORK FOR LECTURE 5

1. Memorize **Heb 1:14**.
2. Instruct your ministering angels to guard your property, protect your family on a daily basis and have faith that they do so.
3. Be especially careful to watch your words so that you don't stop your angels from bringing the answers to your needs.
4. Believe and confess that an angel leads an unsaved loved one of yours to a witnessing Christian as you pray for his salvation.
5. Spend 10 minutes a day meditating on these notes so that these truths can register on your spirit man and as preparation for a true or false test next week.
6. The memory verse counts for 10% towards your test results.
7. An 80% pass-mark is required.