

“GOD’S INCREDIBLE ANGELS”

God's Incredible Angels

INTRODUCTION

To a lot of Christians, the spirit world isn't important. Sometimes we need a frightening experience, a close encounter with death or perhaps something on the TV in order to start us thinking in this direction. Again, I'm confident that every Christian is interested in this subject but, we need to have some answers when the subject comes up. If you and I do not have the answers, rest assured that the Devil will! Always remember: our answers need to be God's answers!

The most exhaustive authority on angels is not a movie about them or, a book of people's experiences, verbal testimonies, but, rather its God's Word! In the entire Bible there are close to 300 references to angels, both good and bad, and their activities. As one expositor expressed, "*What is written shall be our study; thus it is written shall be our weapon.*"

WHAT ABOUT ANGELS (parts#1)

In spite of the cost, we have a *responsibility* to *study*. If we never *study* anything else, we must *study* God's Word!

(Eccl.12:12) "And further, by these, my son, be admonished: of making many books there is no end; and much study is a weariness of the flesh."

(1Th. 4:11) "And that ye study to be quiet, and to do your own business, and to work with your own hands, as we commanded you;"

(2Tim. 2:15) "Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth."

I. Their Origin

A. Sometime, before the beginning, as we know it, God saw fit to call into existence a very unique order of beings - angels.

1. They were created by God:

(Psa.148:1-5) "Praise ye the LORD. Praise ye the LORD from the heavens: praise him in the heights. 2 Praise ye him, *all his angels*: praise ye him, all his hosts. 3 Praise ye him, sun and moon: praise him, all ye stars of light. 4 Praise him, ye heavens of heavens, and ye waters that be above the heavens. 5 Let them praise the name of the LORD: for he commanded, and they were created." **(Col.1:12-17)** "Giving thanks unto the Father, which hath made us meet to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light: 13 Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son: 14 In whom we have redemption through his blood, even the forgiveness of sins: 15 Who is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of every creature: 16 For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him: 17 And he is before all things, and by him all things consist."

2. They were present at the creation of the world: (Job 38:4-7) "Where wast thou when I laid the foundations of the earth? declare, if thou hast understanding. 5 Who hath laid the measures thereof, if thou knowest? or who hath stretched the line upon it? 6 Whereupon are the foundations thereof fastened? or who laid the corner stone thereof; 7 When the morning stars sang together, and all the sons of God shouted for joy?" (Here they are called the "sons of God.")

3. Some angels were present at the fall of Adam & Eve – (Gen 3:24) “So he drove out the man; and he placed at the east of the garden of Eden Cherubims, and a flaming sword which turned every way, to keep the way of the tree of life.”

II. Their Number

(Rev.5:11) “And I beheld, and I heard the voice of many angels round about the throne and the beasts and the elders: and the number of them was ten thousand times ten thousand, and thousands of thousands;”

III. Their Likeness

If we were to observe a dirty cloth being shaken before a window beaming with Sunlight we would see things that just moments ago were invisible. In addition, if GOD were to open our eyesight to the unseen spiritual world around us, I wonder what our reaction would be: fright, joy or maybe some would fall down and begin worshipping the beings.

A. Can be invisible as the Father is invisible

(1Tim.1:17) “ Now unto the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only wise God, be honour and glory for ever and ever. Amen.” (Heb.11:27) “By faith he forsook Egypt, not fearing the wrath of the king: for he endured, as seeing him who is invisible.”

B. Can be visible as the Son of God is visible

1. (Col.1:15,16) “ Who is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of every creature: For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him:”

a. Often they disguise themselves – (Heb.13:2) “Be not forgetful to entertain strangers: for thereby some have entertained angels unawares.”

Appli.: What benefit is there in studying the doctrine of angels?

1. It’s in God’s Word.

2. Angels have a God-ordained purpose in Heaven as well as on earth.

3. It enables us to stay ahead of our times: as time moves toward the 2nd coming of Christ more and more books, movies, TV programs, and music contain elements of supernaturalism than ever before, and, many of our young people are being sucked into a distorted supernaturalism, last but not least, if we fail to understand what God says about angels, our families will suffer the consequences! We cannot teach that which we do not understand.

4. An understanding of the good & bad angels is beneficial in equipping us in spiritual warfare.

6. Because we’ll be with many of the angels forever!

God’s Incredible Angels (part#2)

“Where do they live and function?”

Last week we began looking at angels. There are almost 300 references in 66 books to angels (both good and bad) and their activities. We focused upon only three things: origin, their number & their likeness. I want us to pick up and add several other Biblical details about these mysterious beings called angels (the word = *messenger or representative*).

I. Where Do Angels Live?

A. Primarily with God in -- (Psa.103:19-20) “The LORD hath prepared his throne in the heavens; and his kingdom ruleth over all. 20 Bless the LORD, ye his angels, that excel in strength, that do his commandments, hearkening unto the voice of his word.”

B. Where & what is this Heaven?

(Gen.1:1) “In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth.” The word heaven (*shaw mah*) denotes lofty – It’s all that we might come to call the realm above us.

C. The New Testament on Heaven

(2Cor.12:2-4) “I knew a man in Christ above fourteen years ago, (whether in the body, I cannot tell; or whether out of the body, I cannot tell: God knoweth;) such an one caught up to the third heaven. 3 And I knew such a man, (whether in the body, or out of the body, I cannot tell: God knoweth;) 4 How that he was caught up into paradise, and heard unspeakable words, which it is not lawful for a man to utter.” If there is a 3rd Heaven then there must be a 1st & 2nd !

1. 1st heaven = atmospheric heaven --- (Matt.8:20) “... and the birds of the air (ouranos - oo-ran-os = heaven) have nests...” \\\ (Matt.24:30) “...they shall see the Son of man coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory.” \\\ (Gen 7:11) “...all the fountains of the great deep broken up, and the windows of heaven were opened.”

2. 2nd heaven = the abode of the planet and stars --- (Gen 26:4) “...I will make thy seed to multiply as the stars of heaven...” \\\ (Gen.1:16-17) “And God made two great lights; the greater light to rule the day, and the lesser light to rule the night: he made the stars also. 17 And God set them in the firmament of the heaven to give light upon the earth,” (Psa.19:1) “The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament sheweth his handywork.”

3. 3rd Heaven – the place of God’s throne - (2Chr.2:6) “But who is able to build him an house, seeing the heaven and heaven of heavens cannot contain him? who am I then, that I should build him an house, save only to burn sacrifice before him?” (2Chr.6:18) “But will God in very deed dwell with men on the earth? behold, heaven and the heaven of heavens cannot contain thee; how much less this house which I have built!” (Rev.4:1-5) “After this I looked, and, behold, a door was opened in heaven: and the first voice which I heard was as it were of a trumpet talking with me; which said, Come up hither, and I will shew thee things which must be hereafter. 2 And immediately I was in the spirit: and, behold, a throne was set in heaven, and one sat on the throne. 3 And he that sat was to look upon like a jasper and a sardine stone: and there was a rainbow round about the throne, in sight like unto an emerald. 4 And round about the throne were four and twenty seats: and upon the seats I saw four and twenty elders sitting, clothed in white raiment; and they had on their heads crowns of gold. 5 And out of the throne proceeded lightnings and thunderings and voices: and there were seven lamps of fire burning before the throne, which are the seven Spirits of God”

D. Why is it important to know where angels live and operate?

1. (Heb.1:1ff) “God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets, 2 Hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds; 3 Who being the brightness of his glory, and the express image of his person, and upholding all things by the word of his power, when he had by himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high; 4 ¶ Being made so much better than the angels, as he hath by inheritance obtained a more excellent name than they. 5 For unto which of the angels said he at any time, Thou art my Son, this day have I begotten thee? And again, I will be to him a Father, and he shall be to me a Son? 6 And again, when he bringeth in the firstbegotten into the world, he saith, And let all the angels of God worship him. 7 And of the angels he saith, Who maketh his angels spirits, and his ministers a flame of fire. 8 But unto the Son he saith, Thy throne, O God, is for ever and ever: a sceptre of righteousness is the sceptre of thy kingdom. 9 Thou hast loved righteousness, and hated iniquity; therefore God, even thy God, hath anointed thee with

the oil of gladness above thy fellows. 10 And, Thou, Lord, in the beginning hast laid the foundation of the earth; and the heavens are the works of thine hands: 11 They shall perish; but thou remainest; and they all shall wax old as doth a garment; 12 And as a vesture shalt thou fold them up, and they shall be changed: but thou art the same, and thy years shall not fail. 13 But to which of the angels said he at any time, Sit on my right hand, until I make thine enemies thy footstool? 14 Are they not all ministering spirits, sent forth to minister for them who shall be heirs of salvation?

2. They were created to belong to GOD and HE sends them where and when He desires: (Psa 104:4-9) “Bless the LORD, O my soul. O LORD my God, thou art very great; thou art clothed with honour and majesty. 2 Who coverest thyself with light as with a garment: who stretchest out the heavens like a curtain: 3 Who layeth the beams of his chambers in the waters: who maketh the clouds his chariot: who walketh upon the wings of the wind: 4 Who maketh his angels spirits; his ministers a flaming fire: 5 Who laid the foundations of the earth, that it should not be removed for ever. 6 Thou coveredst it with the deep as with a garment: the waters stood above the mountains. 7 At thy rebuke they fled; at the voice of thy thunder they hasted away. 8 They go up by the mountains; they go down by the valleys unto the place which thou hast founded for them. 9 Thou hast set a bound that they may not pass over; that they turn not again to cover the earth.” (Psa.103:19-20) “The LORD hath prepared his throne in the heavens; and his kingdom ruleth over all. 20 Bless the LORD, ye his angels, that excel in strength, that do his commandments, hearkening unto the voice of his word.”

A number of the above divisions contain questions that have answers in the adjoining text.

God’s Incredible Angels (part #3) “Ten things we know Jesus taught about angels.”

In The last two lessons we looked at (1) The origin of angels and (2) Where do angels live.

The 2nd person of the trinity, the Lord Jesus Christ, had no doubt about the reality of angels. Let us examine ten things Jesus had to say about angels.

I. Jesus Spoke Of The Angels In Heaven

(Matt.22:30) “For in the resurrection they neither marry, nor are given in marriage, but are as the angels of God in heaven.”

II. Jesus Spoke Of The Devil And his Angels

(Matt.25:41) “Then shall he say also unto them on the left hand, Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels.”

III. Jesus Spoke Of His Angels As Holy Angels

(Mk.8:38) “Whosoever therefore shall be ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation; of him also shall the Son of man be ashamed, when he cometh in the glory of his Father with the holy angels.”

IV. Jesus Spoke Of Angels As Being Sexless & Without Sensuous Desires

(Matt.22:30) “For in the resurrection they neither marry, nor are given in marriage, but are as the angels of God in heaven.”

V. Jesus Spoke OF Their High, yet Limited, Intelligence

(Matt.24:36) “But of that day and hour knoweth no man, no, not the angels of heaven, but my Father only.”

VI. Jesus Spoke Of Using Them To Escort His People Home

(Lu.16:22) And it came to pass, that the beggar died, and was carried by the angels into Abraham’s bosom: the rich man also died, and was buried;

VII. JESUS spoke Of Angels As Being Ready To Obey Their Lord

A. at a moment's notice: (Matt.26:53) "Thinkest thou that I cannot now pray to my Father, and he shall presently give me more than twelve legions of angels?"

B. as He returns to the earth: (Matt.25:31-32) "When the Son of man shall come in his glory, and all the holy angels with him, then shall he sit upon the throne of his glory: And before him shall be gathered all nations: and he shall separate them one from another, as a shepherd divideth his sheep from the goats:"

C. as assisting in judgment: (Matt.13:41-43, 47-50) "The Son of man shall send forth his angels, and they shall gather out of his kingdom all things that offend, and them which do iniquity; And shall cast them into a furnace of fire: there shall be wailing and gnashing of teeth. Then shall the righteous shine forth as the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Who hath ears to hear, let him hear." (vs.47-50) "Again, the kingdom of heaven is like unto a net, that was cast into the sea, and gathered of every kind: Which, when it was full, they drew to shore, and sat down, and gathered the good into vessels, but cast the bad away. So shall it be at the end of the world: the angels shall come forth, and sever the wicked from among the just, And shall cast them into the furnace of fire: there shall be wailing and gnashing of teeth."

VIII. Jesus Spoke Of The Angels As Being Around When He Makes A Confession About Us

(Lu.12:8-10) "Also I say unto you, Whosoever shall confess me before men, him shall the Son of man also confess before the angels of God: But he that denieth me before men shall be denied before the angels of God. And whosoever shall speak a word against the Son of man, it shall be forgiven him: but unto him that blasphemeth against the Holy Ghost it shall not be forgiven."

IX. Jesus Spoke Of The Angels As Being in The Presence Present Of A Rejoicing Crowd

(Lu.15:10) "Likewise, I say unto you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner that repenteth."

X. Jesus Spoke Of Angels As Having An Interest In God's Little Ones

(Matt.18:9-11) "And if thine eye offend thee, pluck it out, and cast it from thee: it is better for thee to enter into life with one eye, rather than having two eyes to be cast into hell fire. Take heed that ye despise not one of these little ones; for I say unto you, That in heaven their angels do always behold the face of my Father which is in heaven. For the Son of man is come to save that which was lost."

Stuff For Thought:

- 1.** Jesus believed more about angels than the Sadducees did.
- 2.** Although Jesus mentions angels, His primary conversations did not dwell on them.
- 3.** Especially in our age, why is it important as to what we believe and speak about angels?
- 4.** There is tremendous value in learning all we can about angels because we'll spend all eternity with them!
- 5.** Perhaps one day God Himself will assign angels to our command!

Previously, we looked at the origin of angels; where they live; and last the time we reviewed what Jesus had to say about them. Now we will be looking at nineteen characteristics of angels.

I. Angels Have Wisdom and Limited Knowledge

A. (David said to Joab in 2Sam.14:20) *“To fetch about this form of speech hath thy servant Joab done this thing: and my lord is wise, according to the wisdom of an angel of God, to know all things that are in the earth .”*

B. (Mephibosheth the son of Saul to King David – 2 Sam.19:27) *“And he hath slandered thy servant unto my lord the king; but my lord the king is as an angel of God: do therefore what is good in thine eyes.”*

C. (Matt.24:36) *“But of that day and hour knoweth no man, no, not the angels of heaven, but my Father only.”*

D. (Eph.3:10) *“To the intent that now unto the principalities and powers in heavenly places might be known by the church the manifold wisdom of God”* = One of the reasons God is working through the church is to make His angels wiser.

II. Angels Have Patience

(Numbers 22:22-35) *“And God’s anger was kindled because he went: and the angel of the LORD stood in the way for an adversary against him. Now he was riding upon his ass, and his two servants were with him. 23 And the ass saw the angel of the LORD standing in the way, and his sword drawn in his hand: and the ass turned aside out of the way, and went into the field: and Balaam smote the ass, to turn her into the way. 24 But the angel of the LORD stood in a path of the vineyards, a wall being on this side, and a wall on that side. 25 And when the ass saw the angel of the LORD, she thrust herself unto the wall, and crushed Balaam’s foot against the wall: and he smote her again. 26 And the angel of the LORD went further, and stood in a narrow place, where was no way to turn either to the right hand or to the left. 27 And when the ass saw the angel of the LORD, she fell down under Balaam: and Balaam’s anger was kindled, and he smote the ass with a staff. 28 And the LORD opened the mouth of the ass, and she said unto Balaam, What have I done unto thee, that thou hast smitten me these three times? 29 And Balaam said unto the ass, Because thou hast mocked me: I would there were a sword in mine hand, for now would I kill thee. 30 And the ass said unto Balaam, Am not I thine ass, upon which thou hast ridden ever since I was thine unto this day? was I ever wont to do so unto thee? And he said, Nay. 31 Then the LORD opened the eyes of Balaam, and he saw the angel of the LORD standing in the way, and his sword drawn in his hand: and he bowed down his head, and fell flat on his face. 32 And the angel of the LORD said unto him, Wherefore hast thou smitten thine ass these three times? behold, I went out to withstand thee, because thy way is perverse before me: 33 And the ass saw me, and turned from me these three times: unless she had turned from me, surely now also I had slain thee, and saved her alive. 34 And Balaam said unto the angel of the LORD, I have sinned; for I knew not that thou stoodest in the way against me: now therefore, if it displease thee, I will get me back again. 35 And the angel of the LORD said unto Balaam, Go with the men: but only the word that I shall speak unto thee, that thou shalt speak. So Balaam went with the princes of Balak.”*

III. Angels Have Meekness

(2Pet.2:11) *“Whereas angels, which are greater in power and might, bring not railing accusation against them before the Lord.”*

God will most certainly judge even the most perverted angels by Himself and will not work through angels to condemn souls of anything. The angels are pliable.

IV. Angels Have Modesty

(1 Cor.11:10) *“For this cause ought the woman to have power on her head because of the angels.”*

This above verse is based upon the order of God’s creation. In addition, the woman’s power over her modesty is set forth as her responsibility. Both women and men need to stay away from arrogance, pride, being conceited, and begin focusing on the distinct role and privileges God has given to women.

V. Angels Accompany GOD With A Degree Of HIS Glory

(Mk 8:38) *“Whosoever therefore shall be ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation; of him also shall the Son of man be ashamed, when he cometh in the glory of his Father with the holy angels.”*

VI. Angels Reflect Obedience

(Psa.103:20) *“Bless the LORD, ye his angels, that excel in strength, that do his commandments, hearkening unto the voice of his word.”* (Matt.6:10) *“Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven.”*

VII. Angels Have Knowledge (although limited)

A. They may know a lot of things but not this: (Mk.13:32) *“But of that day and that hour knoweth no man, no, not the angels which are in heaven, neither the Son, but the Father.”*

B. Through our experiences with GOD we know things they do not: (1Pet.1:12) *“Unto whom it was revealed, that not unto themselves, but unto us they did minister the things, which are now reported unto you by them that have preached the gospel unto you with the Holy Ghost sent down from heaven; which things the angels desire to look into.”*

VIII. Angels Have A Free Will

(Isaiah 14:12-14) *“12 How art thou fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! how art thou cut down to the ground, which didst weaken the nations! 13 For thou hast said in thine heart, I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God: I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north: 14 I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will be like the most High.”*

IX. Angels Have Linguistic Abilities

(1 Corinthians 13:1) *“Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, and have not charity, I am become as sounding brass, or a tinkling cymbal.”*

Application:

- 1.** In our study thus far we have learned that angels are known for numerous attributes or characteristics but what do people know us for doing and being?
- 2.** Although we are similar to angels in many ways, in what ways we are most definitely different.

X. Angels Have Glory

(Luke 9:26) *“For whosoever shall be ashamed of me and of my words, of him shall the Son of man be ashamed, when he shall come in his own glory, and in his Father’s, and of the holy angels.”*

XI. Angels Are Immortal

(Luke 20:36) *“And Jesus answering said unto them, The children of this world marry, and are given in marriage: 35 But they which shall be accounted worthy to obtain that world, and the resurrection from the dead, neither marry, nor are given in marriage: 36 Neither can they die any more: for they are equal unto the angels; and are the children of God, being the children of the resurrection.”*

XII. Angels Have No Need Of Rest

(Revelation 4:1-8) *“After this I looked, and, behold, a door was opened in heaven: and the first voice which I heard was as it were of a trumpet talking with me; which said, Come up hither, and I will shew thee things which must be hereafter. 2 And immediately I was in the spirit: and, behold, a throne was set in heaven, and one sat on the throne. 3 And he that sat was to look upon like a jasper and a sardine stone: and there was a rainbow round about the throne, in sight like unto an emerald. 4 And round about the throne were four and twenty seats: and upon the seats I saw four and twenty elders sitting, clothed in white raiment; and they had on their heads crowns of gold. 5 And out of the throne proceeded lightnings and thunderings and voices: and there were seven lamps of fire burning before the throne, which are the seven Spirits of God. 6 And before the throne there was a sea of glass like unto crystal: and in the midst of the throne, and round about the throne, were four beasts full of eyes before and behind. 7 And the first beast was like a lion, and the second beast like a calf, and the third beast had a face as a man, and the fourth beast was like a flying eagle. 8 ¶ And the four beasts had each of them six wings about him; and they were full of eyes within: and they rest not day and night, saying, Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty, which was, and is, and is to come.”*

XIII. Angels Also Operate In Material Realm *(Genesis 18-19:22)*

XIV. Angels Have The Capable Of Traveling At Great Speeds

(Ezekiel 1) (Revelation 8:13) “And I beheld, and heard an angel flying through the midst of heaven, saying with a loud voice, Woe, woe, woe, to the inhabitants of the earth by reason of the other voices of the trumpet of the three angels, which are yet to sound!”

XV. Angels Move Back And Forth, Between Heaven And Earth

(Genesis 28:12) “And he dreamed, and behold a ladder set up on the earth, and the top of it reached to heaven: and behold the angels of God ascending and descending on it.”

(John 1:47-51) “Jesus saw Nathanael coming to him, and saith of him, Behold an Israelite indeed, in whom is no guile! 48 Nathanael saith unto him, Whence knowest thou me? Jesus answered and said unto him, Before that Philip called thee, when thou wast under the fig tree, I saw thee. 49 Nathanael answered and saith unto him, Rabbi, thou art the Son of God; thou art the King of Israel. 50 Jesus answered and said unto him, Because I said unto thee, I saw thee under the fig tree, believest thou? thou shalt see greater things than these. 51 And he saith unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Hereafter ye shall see heaven open, and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of man. \ (Heb.13:2) Be not forgetful to entertain strangers: for thereby some have entertained angels unawares.

XVI. Angels Wear Garments

(John 20:11-13) “But Mary stood without at the sepulchre weeping: and as she wept, she stooped down, and looked into the sepulchre, 12 And seeth two angels in white sitting, the one at the head, and the other at the feet, where the body of Jesus had lain. 13 And they say unto her, Woman, why weepest thou? She saith unto them, Because they have taken away my Lord, and I know not where they have laid him.”

XVII. Angels Stand Before GOD

(Matt. 22:30) “For in the resurrection they neither marry, nor are given in marriage, but are as the angels of God in heaven.”

(II Chr.18:18) “Again he said, Therefore hear the word of the LORD; I saw the LORD sitting upon his throne, and all the host of heaven standing on his right hand and on his left.”

(Rev.12:12) “Therefore rejoice, ye heavens, and ye that dwell in them. Woe to the inhabitants of the earth and of the sea! for the devil is come down unto you, having great wrath, because he knoweth that he hath but a short time.” 13:6 “And he opened his mouth in blasphemy against God, to blaspheme his name, and his tabernacle, and them that dwell in heaven.”

XVIII. Angels Can Appear Without Notice

(Heb.13:1-2) “Let brotherly love continue. Be not forgetful to entertain strangers: for thereby some have entertained angels unawares.”

XIX. Angels Are inferior To Christ

(Heb.1:5) “God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets, 2 Hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds; 3 Who being the brightness of his glory, and the express image of his person, and upholding all things by the word of his power, when he had by himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high; 4 ¶ Being made so much better than the angels, as he hath by inheritance obtained a more excellent name than they. 5 For unto which of the angels said he at any time, Thou art my Son, this day have I begotten thee? And again, I will be to him a Father, and he shall be to me a Son? 6 And again, when he bringeth in the firstbegotten into the world, he saith, And let all the angels of God worship him. 7 And of the angels he saith, Who maketh his angels spirits, and his ministers a flame of fire. 8 But unto the Son he saith, Thy throne, O God, is for ever and ever: a sceptre of righteousness is the sceptre of thy kingdom.” (2:5-9) “For unto the angels hath he not put in subjection the world to come, whereof we speak. 6 But one in a certain

place testified, saying, What is man, that thou art mindful of him? or the son of man, that thou visitest him? 7 Thou madest him a little lower than the angels; thou crownedst him with glory and honour, and didst set him over the works of thy hands: 8 Thou hast put all things in subjection under his feet. For in that he put all in subjection under him, he left nothing that is not put under him. But now we see not yet all things put under him. 9 But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the

“God's Incredible Angels” (part#5)

The Named Angels

“Gabriel”

“The Heavenly Messenger”

God only mentions this angel four times in Scripture.

I. Gabriel Visited The Prophet Daniel On Two Occasions

A. His First Appearance to Daniel

(Dan.8:16-19) “And I heard a man’s voice between the banks of Ulai, which called, and said, Gabriel, make this man to understand the vision. 17 So he came near where I stood: and when he came, I was afraid, and fell upon my face: but he said unto me, Understand, O son of man: for at the time of the end shall be the vision. 18 Now as he was speaking with me, I was in a deep sleep on my face toward the ground: but he touched me, and set me upright. 19 And he said, Behold, I will make thee know what shall be in the last end of the indignation: for at the time appointed the end shall be.”

1. The first time he appeared, Gabriel was preceded by God’s voice.

2. His presence brought instant fear. Daniel fell on his face and went into a deep sleep but Gabriel touched him, set him upright, and explained that he would give him understanding of the vision he had previously experienced.

Food for thought: At times, when God permits us to receive a message from Him it may seem puzzling but rest assured our Master always sends understanding when His perfect timing arrives, even if it takes a miracle!

B. Gabriel’s second appearance to Daniel

(Dan.9:21-27) “Yea, whiles I was speaking in prayer, even the man Gabriel, whom I had seen in the vision at the beginning, being caused to fly swiftly, touched me about the time of the evening oblation. 22 And he informed me, and talked with me, and said, O Daniel, I am now come forth to give thee skill and understanding. 23 At the beginning of thy supplications the commandment came forth, and I am come to shew thee; for thou art greatly beloved: therefore understand the matter, and consider the vision. 24 Seventy weeks are determined upon thy people and upon thy holy city, to finish the transgression, and to make an end of sins, and to make reconciliation for iniquity, and to bring in everlasting righteousness, and to seal up the vision and prophecy, and to anoint the most Holy. 25 Know therefore and understand, that from the going forth of the commandment to restore and to build Jerusalem unto the Messiah the Prince shall be seven weeks, and threescore and two weeks: the street shall be built again, and the wall, even in troublous times. 26 And after threescore and two weeks shall Messiah be cut off, but not for himself: and the people of the prince that shall come shall destroy the city and the sanctuary; and the end thereof shall be with a flood, and unto the end of the war desolations are determined. 27 And he shall confirm the covenant with many for one week: and in the midst of the week he shall cause the sacrifice and the oblation to cease, and for the overspreading of abominations he shall make it desolate, even until the consummation, and that determined shall be poured upon the desolate.”

1. Note, there is no mention of a vision.

2. Gabriel flies in¹ and makes a landing near Daniel as he is having his evening time of worship.

¹ In the above text, God chose not to reveal if Gabriel was equipped with wings or not. However, we will later discover that some angelic beings have wings. In our reasoning, we often associate flying with wings but with the God’s angels, this may or may not be the rule of thumb.

3. Not only does Daniel learn that Gabriel plans to equip him with “**skill and understanding**” but he is also told that he is “**greatly beloved**.”

4. Daniel became fully enlightened to what awaits His people, from his time until the end of the great tribulation period.

Food for thought: - Not only does God love us with His perfect love but He still delights in revealing new things to His saints! - Although our objective in this lesson is to focus upon Gabriel, a detailed study of **Dan.9:21-27** will yield great prophetic insight to anyone willing to invest the time and effort!

II. Gabriel’s Third Appearance

A. He said to Zacharias: (Lu.1:19) “**And the angel answering said unto him, I am Gabriel, that stand in the presence of God; and am sent to speak unto thee, and to shew thee these glad tidings.**”

1. Gabriel appeared to Zacharias and announced to him that not only would his wife give birth to a son in her old age and his name would be John but also, in addition, his son, John the Baptist, would be the forerunner of the prophesied Christ.

2. The verse also reminds us that Gabriel also stands in the Shekinah glory of God – as if he were there waiting for his next assignment straight from God’s throne! I see no reason to doubt but that he is still standing there today.

Food for thought: - God may never send Gabriel to our door but, as God’s pilgrims, we have something much greater that dwells within us – the very presence of the one and only same God that sent Gabriel on mission trips! Oh, how much different our lives, churches, and communities would become if all of God’s redeemed listened and obeyed in a positive way every time God spoke to us from His Word and bore witness to that message with His indwelling Holy Spirit!

III. His Fourth Appearance

To Mary of Nazareth in Galilee -- “**And in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God unto a city of Galilee, named Nazareth, 27 To a virgin espoused to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David; and the virgin’s name was Mary. 28 And the angel came in unto her, and said, Hail, thou that art highly favoured, the Lord is with thee: blessed art thou among women. 29 And when she saw him, she was troubled at his saying, and cast in her mind what manner of salutation this should be. 30 And the angel said unto her, Fear not, Mary: for thou hast found favour with God. 31 And, behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a son, and shalt call his name JESUS. 32 He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest: and the Lord God shall give unto him the throne of his father David: 33 And he shall reign over the house of Jacob for ever; and of his kingdom there shall be no end. 34 Then said Mary unto the angel, How shall this be, seeing I know not a man? 35 And the angel answered and said unto her, The Holy Ghost shall come upon thee, and the power of the Highest shall overshadow thee: therefore also that holy thing which shall be born of thee shall be called the Son of God. 36 And, behold, thy cousin Elisabeth, she hath also conceived a son in her old age: and this is the sixth month with her, who was called barren. 37 For with God nothing shall be impossible. 38 And Mary said, Behold the handmaid of the Lord; be it unto me according to thy word. And the angel departed from her.” (Lu.1:26-38)**

1. Just like Daniel and Zacharias, Mary, too, was greatly alarmed at his appearance.

2. Once Mary fully understood God’s glorious and miraculous will for her life, she willingly submitted to His wishes.

Food for thought: - God’s message to Mary was not only unique, personalized, and miraculous but the outcome of Gabriel’s prophecy would make available to each and every soul that which God perfectly desires, requires and one day will expect from each soul! Apart a soul receiving God’s gift of salvation, each rejecting soul will one day stand empty-handed before God and suffer throughout all of eternity. People still need to hear, understand, and accept God’s redemptive plan. (Jn.3:18) “**He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.**”²

² The word “**believeth**” implies several things – (a) Each individual is to immediately take advantage of God’s offer. (2) The same individual is to place every ounce of their trust in what God’s Word says about Jesus. (3) Without this type of believing personalized experience, each soul on earth will remain in and die with a condemned status that requires everlasting punishment. We must get the Word of God out (Rom.10:17)!

IV. Things That We Know For Certain About Gabriel

- A.** He has a lofty position in God's presence.
- B.** He takes orders directly from God.
- C.** God sent Gabriel to three different people whom He had chosen as pivotal historical keys in His prophetic plans.
- D.** He has the ability to fly.
- E.** He was very kind and respectful in all four visits.
- F.** He only spoke to three different individuals.
- G.** Over all, Gabriel only addressed three different prophetic matters – matters concerning His people, their Messiah, and their future as compared with unbelieving humankind.

THUS:

The angel, Gabriel, was God's announcer and messenger of things pertaining to prophecy and redemption.

What About Angels Part #6

The Named Angels

“Michael”

I. His Name

A. (Dan. 12: 1) The meaning of this name is significant - is “*Who is as or like God?*” In what respect he is as, or like, God is not disclosed but in passages wherein he is directly mentioned it is easily seen that he possesses great authority.

II. His Position is one of tremendous might

“(Dan 10:13 But the prince of the kingdom of Persia withstood me one and twenty days: but, lo, Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me; and I remained there with the kings of Persia.”

III. His Actions

- A.** Speaks, on behalf of God, delivering prophetic messages and strength concerning Israel

“(Dan 10:13-21) But the prince of the kingdom of Persia withstood me one and twenty days: but, lo, Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me; and I remained there with the kings of Persia. 14 Now I am come to make thee understand what shall befall thy people in the latter days: for yet the vision *[is]* for *[many]* days. 15 And when he had spoken such words unto me, I set my face toward the ground, and I became dumb. 16 And, behold, *[one]* like the similitude of the sons of men touched my lips: then I opened my mouth, and spake, and said unto him that stood before me, O my lord, by the vision my sorrows are turned upon me, and I have retained no strength. 17 For how can the servant of this my lord talk with this my lord? for as for me, straightway there remained no strength in me, neither is there breath left in me. 18 Then there came again and touched me *[one]* like the appearance of a man, and he strengthened me, 19 And said, O man greatly beloved, fear not: peace *[be]* unto thee, be strong, yea, be strong. And when he had spoken unto me, I was strengthened, and said, Let my lord speak; for thou hast strengthened me. 20 Then said he, Knowest thou wherefore I come unto thee? and now will I return to fight with the prince of Persia: and when I am gone forth, lo, the prince of Grecia shall come. 21 But I will shew thee that which is noted in the scripture of truth: and *[there is]* none that holdeth with me in these things, but Michael your prince.”

1. God also endorses Michael's position and, authority, and ability.

2. Michael will be greatly used during the great tribulation period

“(Dan. 12:1-4) And at that time shall Michael stand up, the great prince which standeth for the children of thy people: and there shall be a time of trouble, such as never was since there was a nation [even] to that same time: and at that time thy people shall be delivered, every one that shall be found written in the book. 2 And many of them that sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame [and] everlasting contempt. 3 And they that be wise shall shine as the brightness of the firmament; and they that turn many to righteousness as the stars for ever and ever. 4 But thou, O Daniel, shut up the words, and seal the book, [even] to the time of the end: many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall be increased.

a. According to the above, *he “standeth” for Daniel's people, Israel, doubtless in some form of defense.*³

IV. In The New Testament

A. It is here where we find him being referred to as...

“(Jude 9) Yet Michael the archangel, when contending with the devil he disputed about the body of Moses, durst not bring against him a railing accusation, but said, The Lord rebuke thee.

1. In addition, he also speaks with the authority given to him by God.

B. The last time we find him is in the Book of Revelation

“(Rev 12:7-12) And there was war in heaven: Michael and his angels fought against the dragon; and the dragon fought and his angels, 8 And prevailed not; neither was their place found any more in heaven. 9 And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him. 10 And I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, Now is come salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of his Christ: for the accuser of our brethren is cast down, which accused them before our God day and night. 11 And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony; and they loved not their lives unto the death. 12 Therefore rejoice, [ye] heavens, and ye that dwell in them. Woe to the inhabitants of the earth and of the sea! for the devil is come down unto you, having great wrath, because he knoweth that he hath but a short time.”

C. Since Michael has been referred to an archangel, we may not have heard the last of him. He could very well be the one who shouts at the rapture. “(1Th 4:16-18) For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: 17 Then we which are alive [and] remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord. 18 Wherefore comfort one another with these words.”

I am sure that very soon we will discover if it will be him or not

What About Angels Part #7

The Named Angels

“Satan”*(the opponent)*

Satan's existence does not depend upon the private convictions of any one individual or a group of theologians. All that we need to know about him is founded upon what God has to say about him in His Word. (Note - II.Tim.3:16-17) The Next Two lessons will cover his rebellion and his end.

I. His Early days (note the first 10 verses of this chapter – Here God addresses the fall of the King of Tyrus, and then goes far beyond him to the one who inspired the king to begin with. Cp. v.1a & v.11a / “... the prince of Tyrus foreshadows the Beast.” Scofield)

³ Chafer, Lewis Sperry, Systematic Theology, vol. 2, pgs.19-20

(Ezek.28:11-19) “Moreover the word of the LORD came unto me, saying, 12 Son of man, take up a lamentation upon the king of Tyrus, and say unto him, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Thou sealest up the sum, full of wisdom, and perfect in beauty. 13 Thou hast been in Eden the garden of God; every precious stone was thy covering, the sardius, topaz, and the diamond, the beryl, the onyx, and the jasper, the sapphire, the emerald, and the carbuncle, and gold: the workmanship of thy tabrets and of thy pipes was prepared in thee in the day that thou wast created. 14 Thou art the anointed cherub that covereth; and I have set thee so: thou wast upon the holy mountain of God; thou hast walked up and down in the midst of the stones of fire. 15 Thou wast perfect in thy ways from the day that thou wast created, till iniquity was found in thee. 16 By the multitude of thy merchandise they have filled the midst of thee with violence, and thou hast sinned: therefore I will cast thee as profane out of the mountain of God: and I will destroy thee, O covering cherub, from the midst of the stones of fire. 17 Thine heart was lifted up because of thy beauty, thou hast corrupted thy wisdom by reason of thy brightness: I will cast thee to the ground, I will lay thee before kings, that they may behold thee. 18 Thou hast defiled thy sanctuaries by the multitude of thine iniquities, by the iniquity of thy traffick; therefore will I bring forth a fire from the midst of thee, it shall devour thee, and I will bring thee to ashes upon the earth in the sight of all them that behold thee. 19 All they that know thee among the people shall be astonished at thee: thou shalt be a terror, and never shalt thou be any more.”

A. His early days. (v.14) “the anointed cherub that covereth.”

1. He was protector of God’s throne.

B. His appearance

1. God created him as a beautiful being clothed with jewels: *sardius, topaz, diamond, beryl, onyx, jasper, sapphire, emerald, and carbuncle.*
2. Although Ezekiel chapters 1 and 10 give a general cherub’s description please note: vs. 1:10 and 10:14 and see if you can note the difference and then read 1:7
3. God created him with musical instruments that were to be used for the glory of God. (Ezek.28:13)

D. This creature lived “upon the holy mountain of God.” (Ezek. 28:14)

E. God thought a lot of him until “iniquity” was found in him. (Ezek. 28:15)

F. One day his beauty got the best of him. (Ezek. 28:17)

Dr. Graham says: “Underneath Satan’s pride lurked the deadliest of all sins, the sin of covetousness. He wanted what did not belong to him. Virtually every war ever fought began because of covetousness”

(II.Cor. 11:13-15) “For such [are] false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into the apostles of Christ. 14. And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light. 15. Therefore [it is] no great thing if his ministers also be transformed as the ministers of righteousness; whose end shall be according to their works.

1. What are some of his traits that we see reflected in our society!
2. Note how fast sin multiplied within him.

II. His Rebellion (the best Biblical description of)

(Isa.14:12-19) “How art thou fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! how art thou cut down to the ground, which didst weaken the nations! 13 For thou hast said in thine heart, I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God: I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north: 14 I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will be like the most High. 15 Yet thou shalt be brought down to hell, to the sides of the pit. 16 They that see thee shall narrowly look upon thee, and consider thee, saying, Is this the man that made the earth to tremble, that did shake kingdoms; 17 That made the world as a wilderness, and destroyed the cities thereof; that opened not the house of his prisoners? 18 All the kings of the nations, even all of them, lie in glory, every one in his own house. 19 But thou art cast out of thy grave like an abominable branch, and as the raiment of those that are slain, thrust through with a sword, that go down to the stones of the pit; as a carcase trodden under feet.”

A. “I will” five different times.

1. Satan was cast to the earth because of treason
2. He had forfeited his place of authority in heaven and was no longer “Son of the morning”
 - a. His very actions renamed him the “devil.”
 - b. Some scholars believe that this event explains the earth’s condition in **Genesis 1:2**.

B. Dr. Herbert Lockyer records many names given him throughout scripture that describe his personality after, rebelling against God. They are as follows:⁴ *(inserted definitions are mine)*

- 1.** “Lucifer” *(in the sense of brightness, the morning star; striking brilliancy)* (**Isa. 14:12-14**)
- 2.** “Devil” *(a leader of disgrace {the prefix “dis” means a separation from}, slanderer) and Satan (the accuser; acting against or in a contrary direction)* (**Rev. 12:9**)
- 3.** “Beelzebub” *(dung god or god of the insects)* (**Matt. 10:25; 12:24**)
- 4.** “Belial” *(worthlessness)* (**II Cor. 6:15**)
- 5.** “Adversary” *[an opponent (in a lawsuit)]* (**I Pet. 5:8,9**)
- 6.** “Dragon” *(to be fascinated by a fabulous kind of serpent – The emphasis placed upon the idea of being memorized by what is seen.)* (**Rev. 12:3-12; 13:1-4; 20:1-3**)
- 7.** “Serpent” *(The thought of having the sharpness of vision - a snake. It is used figuratively as a type of sly, cunning, an artful malicious person.)* (**II Cor.11:3; Rev. 12:9**)
- 8.** “God” *(deity) of this world* (**II Cor. 4:4**)
- 9.** “Prince of this World” *(The supreme one in charge of the world’s ways)* (**Jn. 12:31**)
- 10.** “Prince of the power of the air” (**Eph. 2:1-3**) *(These verses set forth a supreme unseen magistrate of the air who possesses the same spirit and desires that is currently working in the lives of all who do not believe. This does not specifically mean, however, that all unbelievers are possessed by evil spirits but, on the other hand, it definitely teaches that unbelievers are enslaved to the old nature that clings to the ways contrary to God, thus, they are unknowingly following the enemy of our souls and cannot break away, nor, for the most part, do they have a desire to do so. Even if, by chance, they choose to be morally differently and stay that way, they do not possess within themselves the power to do so and if they remain in this state, they will suffer for all eternity)*
- 11.** “Accuser of the brethren” *(This accuser is one who currently and actively sits in the position of a plaintiff charging Christians with one bad thing after another)* (**Rev.12:10**)
- 12.** “Enemy” *(This is one who is actively hostile and remains that way.)* (**Matt. 13:39**)
- 13.** “Tempter” *(one who continually endeavors to examine and test)* (**Matt. 4:3**)
- 14.** “The wicked” *(one who is diseased with malicious hurting)* (**Matt.13:19, 38; IJn.5:18**)
- 15.** “Fowler” *(one whose drive is to set snares)* (**Psa. 91:3**)
- 16.** “Wolf” *(a creature of prey who works with a pack of others)* (**Jn.10:12**)
- 17.** “Destroyer” *(This is one whose inward desire is to destroy fully either literally or figuratively.)* (**Jn.10:10**)
- 18.** “Roaring lion” *(another predator who makes frightful sounds and desires to devour)* (**I Pet. 5:8,9**)
- 19.** “Thief” *(a stealer -literally or figuratively)* (**Jn.10:10**)
- 20.** “Father of lies” *(the parent of lies, both literally and figuratively)* (**Jn. 8:44**)
- 21.** “Murderer from the beginning” *(This is the one who abandoned truth and instantly desired to murder.)* (**Jn.8:44**)
- 22.** “Sower” *(In referring to the devil, he is the one who actively sows false seeds wherever good seeds are sown.)* (**Matt.13**)

There are many other names that could be included in this list but I would like to add one more: “Leviathan” { **Job.41:1; Psa.74:14,102:26; Isa.27:1** } *(a wreathed or decorated animal; also the constellation of the dragon)*

The following reference not only speaks of a terrible creature but it also addresses a king and his subjects.

⁴Lockyer, Herbert. *All The Doctrines of The Bible*. Zondervan Publishing House: Grand Rapids, Michigan, 49506, 1964. P.135

(Job 41:1-34) “Canst thou draw out leviathan with an hook? or his tongue with a cord *[which]* thou lettest down? 2 Canst thou put an hook into his nose? or bore his jaw through with a thorn? 3 Will he make many supplications unto thee? will he speak soft *[words]* unto thee? 4 Will he make a covenant with thee? wilt thou take him for a servant for ever? 5 Wilt thou play with him as *[with]* a bird? or wilt thou bind him for thy maidens? 6 Shall the companions make a banquet of him? shall they part him among the merchants? 7 Canst thou fill his skin with barbed irons? or his head with fish spears? 8 Lay thine hand upon him, remember the battle, do no more. 9 Behold, the hope of him is in vain: shall not *[one]* be cast down even at the sight of him? 10 None *[is so]* fierce that dare stir him up: who then is able to stand before me? 11 Who hath prevented me, that I should repay *[him? whatsoever is]* under the whole heaven is mine. 12 I will not conceal his parts, nor his power, nor his comely proportion. 13 Who can discover the face of his garment? *[or]* who can come *[to him]* with his double bridle? 14 Who can open the doors of his face? his teeth *[are]* terrible round about. 15 *[His]* scales *[are his]* pride, shut up together *[as with]* a close seal. 16 One is so near to another, that no air can come between them. 17 They are joined one to another, they stick together, that they cannot be sundered. 18 By his neesings a light doth shine, and his eyes *[are]* like the eyelids of the morning. 19 Out of his mouth go burning lamps, *[and]* sparks of fire leap out. 20 Out of his nostrils goeth smoke, as *[out]* of a seething pot or caldron. 21 His breath kindleth coals, and a flame goeth out of his mouth. 22 In his neck remaineth strength, and sorrow is turned into joy before him. 23 The flakes of his flesh are joined together: they are firm in themselves; they cannot be moved. 24 His heart is as firm as a stone; yea, as hard as a piece of the nether *[millstone]*. 25 When he raiseth up himself, the mighty are afraid: by reason of breakings they purify themselves. 26 The sword of him that layeth at him cannot hold: the spear, the dart, nor the habergeon. 27 He esteemeth iron as straw, *[and]* brass as rotten wood. 28 The arrow cannot make him flee: slingstones are turned with him into stubble. 29 Darts are counted as stubble: he laugheth at the shaking of a spear. 30 Sharp stones *[are]* under him: he spreadeth sharp pointed things upon the mire. 31 He maketh the deep to boil like a pot: he maketh the sea like a pot of ointment. 32 He maketh a path to shine after him; *[one]* would think the deep *[to be]* hoary. 33 Upon earth there is not his like, who is made without fear. 34 He beholdeth all high *[things]*: he *[is]* a king over all the children of pride.

III. His Pophesied End = (Isa.14:15) “Yet thou shalt be brought down to hell, to the sides of the pit.

In the Bible, the world of the dead is taught as a subterranean *retreat* including all its accessories and inmates. In The Old Testament, one word is used to denote one of the following places – the grave, hell, or the pit - sheh-ole. In our New Testament, the corresponding word often used to denote the world of the dead is *hades*. For most readers this causes no problems. The underworld is most commonly translated over as hell. On the other hand, few readers realize that changes occurred in the realm of the dead as Bible History progressed. With at least a general understanding of this, the Christian will have an edge when the words hell, pit, grave, and even the lake of fire, are bumped into when reading or if they come up in conversations and perhaps Bible studies.

IV. His Literal End

(Rev.19:20) “And the beast was taken, and with him the false prophet that wrought miracles before him, with which he deceived them that had received the mark of the beast, and them that worshipped his image. These both were cast alive into a lake of fire burning with brimstone.”

(Rev.20:10) “And the devil that deceived them was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are, and shall be tormented day and night for ever and ever.”

(Rev.20:11-15) “And I saw a great white throne, and him that sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away; and there was found no place for them. 12 And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works. 13 And the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them: and they were judged every man according to their works. 14 And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. 15 And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.”

What About Angels Part #8

The Named Angels

“The Angel Of The Lord”

“The Theological Explanation”

What you are about to read is an assimilation of classes I recently taught on the *Angel of The Lord*. Near the end of the series, I thought it needful to add the following theological explanation of the *Angel of the Lord*. Since hindsight often produces insight, especially for me, I discovered that had we looked at the theological explanation in the beginning of the study on this extraordinary angel, matters would have been much easier for hearers to digest and me to teach. Thus, what you are about to view is the revised and finalized edition.

In addition, as I scanned through my library of theological volumes, I settled on what I believe to be the best theological explanations written, perhaps by anyone, on this subject. The following excerpt is from Lewis Sperry Chaffer's massive eight-volume set - Systematic Theology, vol.5 pp.31-33. Dr. Chaffer was the founder and first theology professor of Dallas Theological Seminary and, as you will soon note, he quotes from Dr. John F. Walvoord who would later become the second of the many presidents of this now famous and prestigious seminary.

Roger

I. THE ANGEL OF JEHOVAH

One of the most compelling and indisputable proofs that Christ pre-existed is found in the truth that He is the Angel of Jehovah whose various appearances are recorded in the Old Testament. On this doctrine Dr. John F. Walvoord has written an analysis which may well be included in this text: Definition. A theophany is a manifestation of God in visible and bodily form before the incarnation. Usually the term theophany is limited to appearances of God in the form of man or angels, other phenomena such as the Shekinah glory not being considered a theophany. The theophanies are chiefly appearances of the Angel of Jehovah, who is clearly distinct from angelic beings.

The Angel of Jehovah Identified as Jehovah. *A study of the references to the Angel of Jehovah in the Old Testament will reveal that He is frequently identified as Jehovah Himself. When the Angel of Jehovah spoke to Hagar (Gen. 16:7-13), He is identified as Jehovah (vs. 13). The account of the sacrifice of Isaac (Gen. 22:11-18) affords the same identification of the Angel of Jehovah and Jehovah Himself. Other passages confirm this interpretation (Gen. 31: 11-13; 48: 15, 16; d. 45: 5; Ex. 3: 1 ff.; d. Acts 7 :30-35; Ex. 13: 21; 14:19; Judg. 6:11-23; 13:9-20).*

The Angel of Jehovah as a Distinct Person from Jehovah. *While many passages identify the Angel of Jehovah as Jehovah, other passages almost equal in number distinguish the Angel of Jehovah as a distinct Person. In Gen. 24:7, for instance, Jehovah is pictured as sending "his angel." The servant of Abraham testifies to the reality of this in Gen. 24:40. Moses speaks of Jehovah sending an angel to lead them (Num. 20: 16). A clear instance is found in Zech. 1: 12-13 where the Angel of the Lord speaks to Jehovah, "Then the angel of the LORD answered and said, a LORD of hosts, how long wilt thou not have mercy on Jerusalem and on the cities of Judah, against which thou hast had indignation these threescore and ten years? And the LORD answered the angel that talked with me with good words and comfortable words." Other passages make a similar distinction (Ex. 23:20; 32:34; 1 Chron. 21:15-18; Isa. 63:9; Dan. 3:25-28). There are some passages which affirm the deity of the Angel of Jehovah, but do not specifically identify Him as Jehovah or as a person distinct from Jehovah (Judg. 2:1-5; 2 Kings 19:35).*

The Angel of Jehovah is the Second Person of the Trinity. While to the natural mind the seeming disparity in terminology and usage of the term Angel of Jehovah is irreconcilable, the difficulty is easily dissolved when it is realized that Christ is the Angel of Jehovah. As such, Christ is Jehovah, and at the same time, as a Person He is distinct from the Trinity, being the Second Person. Thus when the Angel of Jehovah is identified as Jehovah, it is a declaration of His deity. When the Angel of Jehovah is distinguished from Jehovah, it is the distinction of the Persons of the Godhead, in all probability the Father in distinction to the Son. This solution is in keeping with the doctrine of the Trinity as unfolded in the entire Scriptures. Granting that the Angel of Jehovah is God, it is a minor problem, relatively, to prove that He is the Second Person, not the Father nor the Holy Spirit.

The proof that Christ is the Angel of Jehovah is supported by four lines of evidence:

(a) The Second Person is the Visible God of the New Testament. When we turn to the New Testament, the Second Person is found to be the incarnate God, possessing a human body and being visible to all. While the Father's voice is heard from heaven, and the Holy Spirit is seen descending in the form of a dove, Christ, the Second Person, is the full manifestation of God in visible form. It would be logical that the same Person of the Godhead who is visible in the New Testament should also be the chosen One to appear in the form of the Angel of Jehovah in the Old Testament.

(b) The Angel of Jehovah of the Old Testament No Longer Appears after the Incarnation of Christ. The Angel of Jehovah is exceedingly active throughout the Old Testament period, appearing to many people in widely separated periods. In the New Testament, while there are references to angels as such, not a single instance is found where the Angel of Jehovah appears. It is a natural inference that He now appears as the incarnate Christ.

(c) Both the Angel of Jehovah and Christ Are Sent by the Father. The Old Testament reveals the Angel of Jehovah as sent by Jehovah to reveal truth, to lead Israel, and to defend and judge them. In the New Testament, Christ is sent by God to reveal God in the flesh, to reveal truth, and to become the Savior. In the nature of the Trinity, it is the Father who sends the Son and the Spirit, the First Person never being sent Himself. The similar character of ministry of the Angel of Jehovah and Christ would serve to identify them.

(d) The Angel of Jehovah Could Not Be Either the Father Or the Holy Spirit. By process of elimination, it can be demonstrated that the Angel of Jehovah must be the Second Person. According to John 1:18, "No man hath seen God at any time; the only begotten Son, which is in the bosom of the Father, he hath declared him." This verse in effect states that only Christ was visible to man, no one being able to see God the Father or the Holy Spirit in their glory. As the Angel of Jehovah is the Sent One, He could not be the Father, the First Person. As the Angel of Jehovah is God in bodily form, He could not be the Holy Spirit, as the attribute of immateriality is always possessed by the Holy Spirit, and His ministry is never characterized by physical attributes. There is not a single valid reason to deny that the Angel of Jehovah is the Second Person, every known fact pointing to His identification as the Christ of the New Testament.

Appearances of Christ Other Than As the Angel of Jehovah. A number of illustrations are afforded in the Old Testament of appearances of Christ in form other than the Angel of Jehovah. In Gen. 18:1-33, Jehovah appears as a man, accompanied by two other men who are probably angels. Jacob's experience of wrestling with God also involves in all probability the appearance of Christ to him in the form of a man (Gen. 32: 24-32). The appearance to the elders of Israel of the God of Israel is probably to be identified as an appearance of Christ (Ex. 24:9-11). The cloud of the Lord, the glory of the Lord (Ex. 40:38), and the "cloudy pillar" (Ex. 33:9-23) are also forms of appearance of Christ in the Old Testament. It is probable that every visible manifestation of God in bodily form is to be identified with the Lord Jesus Christ (Josh. 5:13-15; Ezek. 1:1-28; Dan. 10:1-21).

The Theophanies a Proof of the Pre-existence of Christ. *The theophanies of the Old Testament, being the manifestation of Christ, the Second Person, in visible form constitute an argument for pre-existence in history, as contrasted to the direct statement of the New Testament. The abundant witness to the vital ministry of Christ in the Old Testament period and His evident relationship to so many scenes of revelation in the Old Testament are a convincing proof of His pre-existence. An examination of the character of His ministry*

as the Angel of Jehovah and His manifestation in other forms will not only reveal His pre-existence but will also demand recognition of His deity. As the Angel of Jehovah, He is God, and the revelation of Him in the Old Testament while sometimes devoid of His inherent glory even as He is found during His life on earth after incarnation is nevertheless clearly a display of the attributes of God.-Op. cit., pp. 6-8

What About Angels Part #9

The Named Angels

“The Angel Of The Lord”

(part#1)

I. This “Angel of the Lord” Was Treated As Holy In Character

A. We discover that people worshipped him -

1. Abraham -

(Gen. 18:1-8) “And the **LORD** appeared unto him in the plains of Mamre: and he sat in the tent door in the heat of the day; 2 And he lift up his eyes and looked, and, lo, three men stood by him: and when he saw them, he ran to meet them from the tent door, and bowed himself toward the ground, 3 And said, **My Lord**, if now I have found favour in thy sight, pass not away, I pray thee, from thy servant: 4 Let a little water, I pray you, be fetched, and wash your feet, and rest yourselves under the tree: 5 And I will fetch a morsel of bread, and comfort ye your hearts; after that ye shall pass on: for therefore are ye come to your servant. And they said, So do, as thou hast said. 6 And Abraham hastened into the tent unto Sarah, and said, Make ready quickly three measures of fine meal, knead it, and make cakes upon the hearth. 7 And Abraham ran unto the herd, and fetcht a calf tender and good, and gave it unto a young man; and he hasted to dress it. 8 And he took butter, and milk, and the calf which he had dressed, and set it before them; and he stood by them under the tree, and they did eat.”

In v.1 “**Lord**” (Jehovah) = yeh-ho-vaw = *the all existing self sustaining one* = the proper name of GOD

In v.3 – the word for “**Lord**” = ad -o-noy’ – The Jews used this word in place of Yahweh to reflect their reverence for God.

2. Balaam

(Nu. 22:22-35) “And God’s anger was kindled because he went: and **the angel of the LORD** stood in the way for an adversary against him. Now he was riding upon his ass, and his two servants were with him. 23 And the ass saw **the angel of the LORD** standing in the way, and his sword drawn in his hand: and the ass turned aside out of the way, and went into the field: and Balaam smote the ass, to turn her into the way. 24 But **the angel of the LORD** stood in a path of the vineyards, a wall being on this side, and a wall on that side. 25 And when the ass saw **the angel of the LORD**, she thrust herself unto the wall, and crushed Balaam’s foot against the wall: and he smote her again. 26 And **the angel of the LORD** went further, and stood in a narrow place, where was no way to turn either to the right hand or to the left. 27 And

when the ass saw the angel of the LORD, she fell down under Balaam: and Balaam's anger was kindled, and he smote the ass with a staff. 28 And the LORD opened the mouth of the ass, and she said unto Balaam, What have I done unto thee, that thou hast smitten me these three times? 29 And Balaam said unto the ass, Because thou hast mocked me: I would there were a sword in mine hand, for now would I kill thee. 30 And the ass said unto Balaam, Am not I thine ass, upon which thou hast ridden ever since I was thine unto this day? was I ever wont to do so unto thee? And he said, Nay. 31 Then the LORD opened the eyes of Balaam, and he saw the angel of the LORD standing in the way, and his sword drawn in his hand: and he bowed down his head, and fell flat on his face. 32 And the angel of the LORD said unto him, Wherefore hast thou smitten thine ass these three times? behold, I went out to withstand thee, because thy way is perverse before me: 33 And the ass saw me, and turned from me these three times: unless she had turned from me, surely now also I had slain thee, and saved her alive. 34 And Balaam said unto the angel of the LORD, I have sinned; for I knew not that thou stoodest in the way against me: now therefore, if it displease thee, I will get me back again. 35 And the angel of the LORD said unto Balaam, Go with the men: but only the word that I shall speak unto thee, that thou shalt speak. So Balaam went with the princes of Balak."

Facts Thus Far:

1. v.1 "God's" - *el-o-heem'* – the pluralism of God
2. The word angel means a dispatched messenger from God.
3. Note – Balaam was not surprised when the donkey spoke.
4. Balaam realized He had sinned.
5. It took divine intervention for Balaam to see this angel.
6. Scripture repeats the phrase "Angel of the Lord" ten times in the above passage. In Biblical Numerology, the number ten is the number that points to the gentiles. God permitted Balaam to go with the gentiles but with one strict guideline.

II. The "Angel Of The Lord" Charged His People.

(Jud. 2:1-7) " And an angel of the LORD came up from Gilgal to Bochim, and said, I made you to go up out of Egypt, and have brought you unto the land which Iswore unto your fathers; and Isaid, I will never break my covenant with you. 2 And ye shall make no league with the inhabitants of this land; ye shall throw down their altars: but ye have not obeyed my voice: why have ye done this? 3 Wherefore I also said, I will not drive them out from before you; but they shall be [*as thorns*] in your sides, and their gods shall be a snare unto you. 4 And it came to pass, when the angel of the LORD spake these words unto all the children of Israel, that the people lifted up their voice, and wept. 5 And they called the name of that place Bochim ("the place of weepers"): and they sacrificed there unto the LORD. 6 And when Joshua had let the people go, the children of Israel went every man unto his inheritance to possess the land. 7 And the people served the LORD all the days of Joshua, and all the days of the elders that outlived Joshua, who had seen all the great works of the LORD, that he did for Israel.

III. This Angel Of The Lord Spoke As God Himself.

A. During the Time Of Gideon -

(Jud. 6:12-25) "And it came to pass, when the children of Israel cried unto the LORD because of the Midianites, 8 That the LORD sent a prophet unto the children of Israel, which said unto them, Thus saith the LORD God of Israel, I brought you up from Egypt, and brought you forth out of the house of bondage; 9 And I delivered you out of the hand of the Egyptians, and out of the hand of all that oppressed you, and drave them out from before you, and gave you their land; 10 And I said unto you, I am the LORD your God; fear not the gods of the Amorites, in whose land ye dwell: but ye have not obeyed my voice. 11 ¶ And there came an angel of the LORD, and sat under an oak which was in Ophrah, that pertained unto Joash the Abiezrite: and his son Gideon threshed wheat by the winepress, to hide it from the Midianites. 12 And the angel of the LORD appeared unto him, and said unto him, The LORD is with thee, thou mighty man of valour. 13 And Gideon said unto him, Oh my Lord, if the LORD be with us, why then is all this befallen us? and where be all his miracles which our fathers told us of, saying, Did not the LORD bring us up from Egypt? but now the LORD hath forsaken us, and delivered us into the hands of the Midianites. 14 And the LORD looked upon him, and said, Go in this thy might, and thou shalt save Israel from the hand of the Midianites: have not I sent thee? 15 And he said unto him, Oh my Lord,

wherewith shall I save Israel? behold, my family is poor in Manasseh, and I am the least in my father's house. 16 And the LORD said unto him, Surely I will be with thee, and thou shalt smite the Midianites as one man. 17 And he said unto him, If now I have found grace in thy sight, then shew me a sign that thou talkest with me. 18 Depart not hence, I pray thee, until I come unto thee, and bring forth my present, and set it before thee. And he said, I will tarry until thou come again. 19 And Gideon went in, and made ready a kid, and unleavened cakes of an ephah of flour: the flesh he put in a basket, and he put the broth in a pot, and brought it out unto him under the oak, and presented it. 20 And the angel of God said unto him, Take the flesh and the unleavened cakes, and lay them upon this rock, and pour out the broth. And he did so. 21 Then the angel of the LORD put forth the end of the staff that was in his hand, and touched the flesh and the unleavened cakes; and there rose up fire out of the rock, and consumed the flesh and the unleavened cakes. Then the angel of the LORD departed out of his sight. 22 And when Gideon perceived that he was an angel of the LORD, Gideon said, Alas, O Lord GOD! for because I have seen an angel of the LORD face to face. 23 And the LORD said unto him, Peace be unto thee; fear not: thou shalt not die. 24 Then Gideon built an altar there unto the LORD, and called it Jehovahshalom: unto this day it is yet in Ophrah of the Abiezrites."

God had previously told His people, (Ex. 20:2-6) "*I am the LORD thy God, which have brought thee out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage.* 3 Thou shalt have no other gods before me. 4 Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image, or any likeness *of any thing that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth:* 5 Thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them: for I the LORD thy God *am* a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth *generation* of them that hate me; 6 And shewing mercy unto thousands of them that love me, and keep my commandments."

Thus, we must conclude that Abraham, Joshua, Balaam, and Gideon all knew the identity this Angel and worshipped Him by either bowing before him, confessing sins to him, recognizing him as "**Lord**" or a combination of these actions. Secondly, we learn that holy one brought fire and consumed Gideon's sacrifice. Last but not least, Samson's father referred to him as God and feared his life because of the encounter. (Jud. 13:21-22) "**But the angel of the LORD did no more appear to Manoah and to his wife. Then Manoah knew that he was an angel of the LORD. 22 And Manoah said unto his wife, We shall surely die, because we have seen God.**"

(PART#2)

I. The "Angel Of The Lord' Had Mercy On Those In Affliction And Reached Out To Save Them:

A. Moses, writing about Sari sending Hagar into the wilderness – (Gen.16:7-11) "**And the angel of the LORD found her by a fountain of water in the wilderness, by the fountain in the way to Shur. 8 And he said, Hagar, Sarai's maid, whence camest thou? and whither wilt thou go? And she said, I flee from the face of my mistress Sarai. 9 And the angel of the LORD said unto her, Return to thy mistress, and submit thyself under her hands. 10 ¶ And the angel of the LORD said unto her, I will multiply thy seed exceedingly, that it shall not be numbered for multitude. 11 And the angel of the LORD said unto her, Behold, thou art with child, an shalt bear a son, and shalt call his name Ishmael; because the LORD hath heard thy affliction. 12 And he will be a wild man; his hand will be against every man, and every man's hand against him; and he shall dwell in the presence of all his brethren. 13 And she called the name of the LORD that spake unto her, Thou God seest me: for she said, Have I also here looked after him that seeth me?...**(Gen.21:17) "**And God heard the voice of the lad; and the angel of God called to Hagar out of heaven, and said unto her, What aileth thee, Hagar? fear not; for God hath heard the voice of the lad where he is.**"

B. Isaiah recorded - (63:9) "**In all their affliction he was afflicted, and the angel of his presence saved them: in his love and in his pity he redeemed them; and he bare them, and carried them all the days of old.**"

C. Jacob said -

(Gen. 48:16) “The Angel which redeemed me from all evil, bless the lads; and let my name be named on them, and the name of my fathers Abraham and Isaac; and let them grow into a multitude in the midst of the earth.”

II. Abraham Knew That “The Angel Of The Lord” Had The Ability To Bless.

(Gem.22:15-18) “And the angel of the LORD called unto Abraham out of heaven the second time, 16 And said, By myself have I sworn, saith the LORD, for because thou hast done this thing, and hast not withheld thy son, thine only son: 17 That in blessing I will bless thee, and in multiplying I will multiply thy seed as the stars of the heaven, and as the sand which is upon the sea shore; and thy seed shall possess the gate of his enemies; 18 And in thy seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed; because thou hast obeyed my voice.”

III. Moses Knew That This Special Angel Disliked Sin And Would Stop Leading His People If Sin Was Permitted In The Camp.

(Ex. 32:31-35) “And Moses returned unto the LORD, and said, Oh, this people have sinned a great sin, and have made them gods of gold. 32 Yet now, if thou wilt forgive their sin—; and if not, blot me, I pray thee, out of thy book which thou hast written. 33 And the LORD said unto Moses, Whosoever hath sinned against me, him will I blot out of my book. 34 Therefore now go, lead the people unto the place of which I have spoken unto thee: behold, mine Angel shall go before thee: nevertheless in the day when I visit I will visit their sin upon them. 35 And the LORD plagued the people, because they made the calf, which Aaron made.”

IV. At Times This Angel Spoke To God ‘s People With The Authority Of GOD Himself.

(Jud. 2:1-6) “And an angel of the LORD came up from Gilgal to Bochim, and said, I made you to go up out of Egypt, and have brought you unto the land which I swore unto your fathers; and I said, I will never break my covenant with you. 2 And ye shall make no league with the inhabitants of this land; ye shall throw down their altars: but ye have not obeyed my voice: why have ye done this? 3 Wherefore I also said, I will not drive them out from before you; but they shall be as thorns in your sides, and their gods shall be a snare unto you. 4 And it came to pass, when the angel of the LORD spake these words unto all the children of Israel, that the people lifted up their voice, and wept. And they called the name of that place Bochim: and they sacrificed there unto the LORD. And when Joshua had let the people go, the children of Israel went every man unto his inheritance to possess the land.

Abraham, Moses, Hagar, the children of Israel, and Joshua had no difficulty in identifying this angel.

Part# 3

This angelic being was also distinguished for giving both personal, national guidance, and protection.

I. He Gave Personal Guidance To:

A. Abraham –

(Gen.22:11-12) “And the angel of the LORD (*yeh-ho-vaw'-Lord*) called unto him out of heaven, and said, Abraham, Abraham: and he said, Here am I. 12 And he said, Lay not thine hand upon the lad, neither do thou any thing unto him: for now I know that thou fearest God, seeing thou hast not withheld thy son, thine only son from me.” (24:10) “The LORD God of heaven, which took me from my father’s house, and from the land of my kindred, and which spake unto me, and that swore unto me, saying, Unto thy seed will I give this land; he shall send his angel before thee, and thou shalt take a wife unto my son from thence.”

B. Jacob –

(Gen. 31:11) “And the angel of God (*el-o-heem'*) spake unto me in a dream, saying, Jacob: And I said, Here am I.”

C. Moses -

(Ex. 3: 2) “And the angel of the LORD (*yeh-ho-vaw'-Lord*) appeared unto him in a flame of fire out of the midst of a bush: and he looked, and, behold, the bush burned with fire, and the bush was not consumed.”

D. Elijah

(1Ki.19:5-8) “And as he lay and slept under a juniper tree, behold, then an angel (*yeh-ho-vaw'-Lord*) touched him, and said unto him, Arise and eat. 6 And he looked, and, behold, there was a cake baken on the coals, and a cruse of water at his head. And he did eat and drink, and laid him down again. 7 And the angel of the LORD (*yeh-ho-vaw'-Lord*) came again the second time, and touched him, and said, Arise and eat; because the journey is too great for thee. 8 And he arose, and did eat and drink, and went in the strength of that meat forty days and forty nights unto Horeb the mount of God.” (2Ki.1:13-15) “And he sent again a captain of the third fifty with his fifty. And the third captain of fifty went up, and came and fell on his knees before Elijah, and besought him, and said unto him, O man of God, I pray thee, let my life, and the life of these fifty thy servants, be precious in thy sight. 14 Behold, there came fire down from heaven, and burnt up the two captains of the former fifties with their fifties: therefore let my life now **be precious in thy sight.** 15 And the angel of the LORD (*yeh-ho-vaw'-Lord*) said unto Elijah, Go down with him: be not afraid of him. And he arose, and went down with him unto the king.”

E. Zechariah –

*Prior to these verses, Zechariah had been conversing with an angel. The angel of the Lord appears as a red horse rider appears, dismounts, and stands under the Myrtle trees. The riders finally arrive and gave their report to Him. (Zec.1:9-17) “Then said I, O my lord, what are these? And the angel that talked with me said unto me, I will shew thee what these be. 10 And the man that stood among the myrtle trees answered and said, These [are they] whom the LORD hath sent to walk to and fro through the earth. 11 And they answered the angel of the LORD (*yeh-ho-vaw'-Lord*) that stood among the myrtle trees, and said, We have walked to and fro through the earth, and, behold, all the earth sitteth still, and is at rest. He then proceeds to intercede with God on behalf of Judah --- 12 Then the angel of the LORD answered and said, O LORD of hosts, how long wilt thou not have mercy on Jerusalem and on the cities of Judah, against which thou hast had indignation these threescore and ten years? 13 And the LORD answered the angel that talked with me [with] good words [and] comfortable words. 14 So the angel that communed with me said unto me, Cry thou, saying, Thus saith the LORD of hosts; I am jealous for Jerusalem and for Zion with a great jealousy. Zec 1:15 And I am very sore displeased with the heathen [that are] at ease: for I was but a little displeased, and they helped forward the affliction. 16 Therefore thus saith the LORD; I am returned to Jerusalem with mercies: my house shall be built in it, saith the LORD of hosts, and a line shall be stretched forth upon Jerusalem. 17 Cry yet, saying, Thus saith the LORD of hosts; My cities through prosperity shall yet be spread abroad; and the LORD shall yet comfort Zion, and shall yet choose Jerusalem.”* For the first six chapters of this book, Zechariah is in close companionship with an angel.

Dr. Unger wrote, “*The red-horse rider was an angel in human form, yet not merely an angel, since He is clearly differentiated from the other angelic riders. He is emphatically presented while they are presented only by implication. He can be none other than the Angel of Jehovah, since He is styled Jehovah (vs. 13). In addition, He possesses an authoritative dignity different from the others, who report their findings to Him in a way that suggests His preeminent position over them (cf. Judg. 6: 12; 13:20; Num. 22:23). He thus appears to be none other than the Angel of the Presence (Exod. 23: 23), Jehovah Himself, the Messiah in His preincarnate glory.*”⁵

F. Daniel -

1. This angel stood and protected Daniel and his three friends – “(Dan 3:24-27) Then Nebuchadnezzar the king was astonished, and rose up in haste, [and] spake, and said unto his counsellors, Did not we cast three men bound into the midst of the fire? They answered and said unto the king, True, O king. 25 He answered and said, Lo, I see four men loose, walking in the midst of the fire, and they have no hurt; and the form of the fourth is like the Son of God. Then Nebuchadnezzar came near to the mouth of the burning fiery furnace, [and] spake, and said, Shadrach, Meshach, and

⁵ Unger, F., Merrill, *Zechariah: Prophet of Messiah's Glory*, Zondervan Publishing Company: 5300 Patterson SE Grand Rapids, Michigan 49530. 1963. P.27

Abednego, ye servants of the most high God, come forth, and come *[hither]*. Then Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, came forth of the midst of the fire. And the princes, governors, and captains, and the king's counsellors, being gathered together, saw these men, upon whose bodies the fire had no power, nor was an hair of their head singed, neither were their coats changed, nor the smell of fire had passed on them.” What happened to the fourth man?

2. A little later, Daniel would once again experience quality time with this same angel. - (Dan.6:22) “My God hath sent his angel, and hath shut the lions’ mouths, that they have not hurt me: forasmuch as before him innocency was found in me; and also before thee, O king, have I done no hurt.”

II. He Provided Leadership For The Travelling Israelites.

(Ex. 23:20-23) “¶ Behold, I send an Angel before thee, to keep thee in the way, and to bring thee into the place which I have prepared. 21 Beware of him, and obey his voice, provoke him not; for he will not pardon your transgressions: for my name is in him. 22 But if thou shalt indeed obey his voice, and do all that I speak; then I will be an enemy unto thine enemies, and an adversary unto thine adversaries. 23 For mine Angel shall go before thee, and bring thee in unto the Amorites, and the Hittites, and the Perizzites, and the Canaanites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites: and I will cut them off.”

(Ex. 14:19) “And the angel of God, (*el-o-heem'*) which went before the camp of Israel, removed and went behind them; and the pillar of the cloud went from before their face, and stood behind them:”

III. He Provided Military Victories For The Travelling Israelites.

(Ex. 33:2) “And I will send an angel before thee; and I will drive out the Canaanite, the Amorite, and the Hittite, and the Perizzite, the Hivite, and the Jebusite:”

(Jud.5:23) “Curse ye Meroz, said the angel of the LORD, (*yeh-ho-vaw'-Lord*) curse ye bitterly the inhabitants thereof; because they came not to the help of the LORD, to the help of the LORD against the mighty.”

(2Ki.19:35) “And it came to pass that night, that the angel of the LORD (*yeh-ho-vaw'-Lord*) went out, and smote in the camp of the Assyrians an hundred fourscore and five thousand: and when they arose early in the morning, behold, they were all dead corpses.”

In conclusion

In (Jud.13:18) this angel told Samson’s father, “And the angel of the LORD said unto him, Why askest thou thus after my name, seeing it is secret?” Although in The Old Testament this angel’s name is secret, I sincerely believe that we may conclude that he was a pre-incarnate appearance of the Lord Jesus Christ, a theophany, and that one day, in His own timing, His name would be revealed in The New Testament!

Part# 4

I. The Angel Of The Lord In The New Testament

Some may be wondering about the phrases - “**the angel of the Lord**”, “**an angel of the Lord**”, or “**his angel**” in the New Testament where we find these being used fourteen times in the King James Bible.

A. (Mat 1:20) “But while he thought on these things, behold, the angel of the Lord appeared unto him in a dream, saying, Joseph, thou son of David, fear not to take unto thee Mary thy wife: for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Ghost.”

B. (Mat 1:24) “Then Joseph being raised from sleep did as the angel of the Lord had bidden him, and took unto him his wife:”

C. (Mat 2:13) “And when they were departed, behold, the angel of the Lord appeareth to Joseph in a dream, saying, Arise, and take the young child and his mother, and flee into Egypt, and be thou there until I bring thee word: for Herod will seek the young child to destroy him.”

D. (Mat 2:19) “But when Herod was dead, behold, an angel of the Lord appeareth in a dream to Joseph in Egypt,”

E. (Mat 28:2) “And, behold, there was a great earthquake: for the angel of the Lord descended from heaven, and came and rolled back the stone from the door, and sat upon it.”

F. (Luk 1:11) “And there appeared unto him an angel of the Lord standing on the right side of the altar of incense.”

G. (Luk 2:9) “And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid.”

H. (Act 5:19) “But the angel of the Lord by night opened the prison doors, and brought them forth, and said,”

I. (Act 7:30) “And when forty years were expired, there appeared to him in the wilderness of mount Sina an angel of the Lord in a flame of fire in a bush.” Obviously, this is a New Testament reminder of the Old Testament reference - (Ex. 3: 2) “And the angel of the LORD (*yeh-ho-vaw'-Lord*) appeared unto him in a flame of fire out of the midst of a bush: and he looked, and, behold, the bush burned with fire, and the bush was not consumed.” This was previously discussed in part #3; I. He Gave Personal Guidance To; ; C. Moses

J. (Act 8:26) “And the angel of the Lord spake unto Philip, saying, Arise, and go toward the south unto the way that goeth down from Jerusalem unto Gaza, which is desert.”

K. (Act 12:7) “And, behold, the angel of the Lord came upon *[him]*, and a light shined in the prison: and he smote Peter on the side, and raised him up, saying, Arise up quickly. And his chains fell off from *[his]* hands.”

L. (Act 12:11) “And when Peter was come to himself, he said, Now I know of a surety, that the Lord hath sent his angel, and hath delivered me out of the hand of Herod, and *[from]* all the expectation of the people of the Jews.”

M. (Act 12:23) “And immediately the angel of the Lord smote him, because he gave not God the glory: and he was eaten of worms, and gave up the ghost.”

N. (Rev 22:6) “And he said unto me, These sayings *[are]* faithful and true: and the Lord God of the holy prophets sent his angel to shew unto his servants the things which must shortly be done.”

II. Walvoord's Comments: “ (a) *The Second Person is the visible God of the New Testament. Neither the Father nor the Spirit is characteristically revealed in bodily and visible form. While the Father's voice is heard from heaven, and the Holy Spirit is seen descending in the form of a dove, Christ, the Second Person, is the full manifestation of God in visible form. It is logical that the same Person of the Trinity should appear in bodily form in both Testaments.* (b) *Confirming this induction is the fact that the Angel of Jehovah of the Old Testament no longer appears after the incarnation. References to angels in the New*

Testament seem to refer to either angelic or human messengers. It is a natural inference that the Angel of Jehovah is now the incarnate Christ. (c) The similarity of function between the Angel of Jehovah and Christ can be observed in the fact that both are sent by the Father. In the Old Testament, the Angel of Jehovah is sent by Jehovah to reveal truth, to lead Israel, and to defend and judge them. In the New Testament, Christ is sent by God the Father to reveal God in the flesh, to reveal truth, and to become the Savior. It is characteristic for the Father to send and the Son to be the sent one. These facts again point to the identification of the Angel of Jehovah with Christ. (d) By the process of elimination, it can be demonstrated that the Angel of Jehovah could not be either the First Person or the Third Person. According to John 1:18, No one has seen God; the only Son, who is in the bosom of the Father, he has made him known (R.S.V.). This passage seems to imply that only Christ could be visible to man and that the First Person and the Third Person did not reveal themselves in visible fashion. As the Angel of Jehovah is the sent one, He could not be the Father for the Father is the sender. As the Angel of Jehovah characteristically appears in bodily, usually human form, He could not be the Holy Spirit who does not appear bodily, except in the rare instance of appearing in the form of a dove at the baptism of Christ. It may, therefore, be concluded that the Angel of Jehovah is the Second Person of the Trinity. The other theophanies of the Old Testament tend to confirm this judgment, revealing in particular the work of Christ in that period”⁶

An anonymous writer records, “...careful attention to the context of each of these passages, reveals that unlike the same phrase in the OT, none of these NT passages directly or indirectly indicate any of these angels are God, but only the messengers of God. In each of the passages..., the angel is clearly a created holy being, and there is no support that they refer to the Person of Jesus Christ.”

With the exception of number seven, when we carefully examining the above passages, we quickly note that this most unusual angel was not worshipped nor treated by anyone as God. He was simply a very special messenger sent from God.

“God's Incredible Angels”

“THE SERAPHIM”

(part#7)



I. The only reference to these unique beings in Scripture is Isaiah 6:1-8

“In the year that king Uzziah died (BC.759- inserted by me) I saw also the Lord [יְהוָה (pronounced –“ad-o-noy”)- the Lord -used as a proper name of God only. Inserted by me.] sitting upon a throne, high and lifted up, and his train filled the temple. 2 Above it stood the seraphims: each one had six wings; with twain he covered his face, and with twain he covered his feet, and with twain he did fly. 3 And one cried unto another, and said, Holy, holy, holy, is the LORD [יהוה (pronounced - yeh-ho-vaw') - (the) self Existent or

⁶ Walvoord, F. John, *Series in Christology*, Chapter 2, The Angel of Jehovah, 2-3, This came from the PDF version that can be found at: https://www.google.com/webhp?hl=en&tab=nw#hl=en&sugexp=cpsugrccpqgame&gs_rm=7&gs_ri=psy-ab&tok=Jc5P2rbP6CQsGuU0WNR-5g&cp=42&gs_id=4&xhr=t&q=Walvoord,+F.+John,+Series+in+Christology.&es_nrs=true&pf=p&output=search&sclient=psy-ab&oq=Walvoord,+F.+John,+Series+in+Christology.+&gs_l=pbx=1&bav=on.2,or_r_cp_r_qf.&bvm=bv.44011176,d.aWM&fp=b22d7ab3fd0f9665&biw=1288&bih=640

eternal; *Jehovah*, Jewish national name of God. *Inserted by me.*] **of hosts: the whole earth is full of his glory. 4 And the posts of the door moved at the voice of him** (*male pronoun – Inserted by me.*) **that cried, and the house was filled with smoke. 5 Then said I, Woe is me! for I am undone; because I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips: for mine eyes have seen the King, the LORD** [יְהוָה (pronounced - yeh-ho-vaw') - (the) *self Existent* or eternal; *Jehovah*, Jewish national name of God. *Inserted by me.*] **of hosts. 6 Then flew one of the seraphims unto me, having a live coal in his hand, which he had taken with the tongs from off the altar: 7 And he laid it upon my mouth, and said, Lo, this hath touched thy lips; and thine iniquity is taken away, and thy sin purged. 8 Also I heard the voice of the Lord** [אֲדֹנָי (pronounced –“ad-o-noy’)- the *Lord* -used as a proper name of God only. *Inserted by me.*] **, saying, Whom shall I send, and who will go for us? Then said I, Here am I; send me.”**⁷

II. Name = Burners [שָׂרָפִים *Pronounced -saw-rawf'- burning*, that is, (figuratively) *poisonous* (serpent); specifically a *saraph* or symbolical creature (from their copper color): - fiery (serpent), seraph.] **thus, a fiery-burning copper-colored creature.**

The commentator, Albert Barn states, “It is translated ‘a fiery serpent’ in Num 21:8; Isa 14:29; Isa 30:6. In - Deu 8:15; Num 21:6, it is rendered ‘fiery,’ and in the passage before us, ‘seraphims.’ This is the only place where the word is applied to celestial beings rather than serpents.”

Matthew Henry, “They burn in love to God, and zeal for his glory and against sin, and he makes use of them as instruments of his wrath when he is a consuming fire to his enemies. Whether they were only two or four, or (as I rather think) an innumerable company of angels, that Isaiah saw, is uncertain;... Note, It is the glory of the angels that they are seraphim, have heat proportionable to their light, have abundance, not only of divine knowledge, but of holy love. faces before the holy God, who charges even his angels with folly if they should offer to vie with him, Job 4:18.”⁸

III. Their Countenance - 3 pairs of wings - each pair having a specific purpose

Once again, quoting Matthew Henry, “Special notice is taken of their wings (and of no other part of their appearance), because of the use they made of them, which is designed for instruction to us.” They had each of them six wings, not stretched upwards (as those whom Ezekiel saw, Eze_1:11), but, Four were made use of for a covering, as the wings of a fowl, sitting, are; with the two upper wings, next to the head, they covered their faces, and with the two lowest wings they covered their feet, or lower parts. This bespeaks their great humility and reverence in their attendance upon God, for he is greatly feared in the assembly of those saints, Psa.89:7. They not only cover their feet, those members of the body which are less honourable (1Co.12:23), but even their faces. Though angel's faces, doubtless, are much fairer than those of the children of men (Act.6:15), yet in the presence of God, they cover them, because they cannot bear the dazzling lustre of the divine glory, and because, being conscious of an infinite distance from the divine perfection, they are ashamed to show their faces before the holy God, who charges even his angels with folly if they should offer to vie with him, Job_4:18. They had each of them six wings, not stretched upwards (as those whom Ezekiel saw, Eze.1:11), but, 1. Four were made use of for a covering, as the wings of a fowl, sitting, are; with the two upper wings, next to the head, they covered their faces, and with the two lowest wings they covered their feet, or lower parts..They not only cover their feet, those members of the body which are less honourable (1Co.12:23), but even their faces. If angels be thus reverent in their attendance on God, with what godly fear should we approach his throne!”

IV. Their Unique Purpose

A. If what we see in God’s vision to Isaiah is the norm in Heaven, they stand atop GOD’s Heavenly throne.

B. They were created by God to perhaps bring attention to His perfection and of all praises due Him because of His holiness.

⁷ Uzziah (“strength of the Lord”) or Azariah (*Jehovah helps*) (**IIKi.15:1-2**) was 16 when the people of Judah desired for him to be their king. After 52 years of service, he died in B.C.759

“Not only was Isaiah’s ministry about 40 years, he was married to a prophetess (**8:3**) and had to sons Shear-jashub (*a remnant will return*) and Maher-shalal-hash-baz (*swift is the body, speedy is the prey*). The first child held a promise of mercy and the second, one of judgment.”

Unger, Merrill, F. Unger’s Bible Dictionary. Moody Press: 829 North La Salle Drive Chicago, Illinois 60610. 1988. p. 629

⁸ Matthew Henry’s Commentary on the Whole Bible

C. Not only is the above the only Scriptural reference to the seraphim but this is the only record of GOD utilizing them to assist in cleansing, purifying, and equipping a soul to be acceptable before God.

V. Isaiah's vision is a reminder.

- A. The vision reminds us of the divine holiness of GOD.
- B. unclean condition found in people, including GOD'S people.
- C. that a sinner can only have access to GOD thru GOD'S altar and HIS approved sacrifice.
- D. of God's love for, and a desire to, minister to His people.
- E. The visions reminds us of the perfect abundant mercy and grace God sends forth with His calling.
- F. God-head's desire to commission and equip willing people to become ambassadors and messengers for Them.

“God's Incredible Angels” THE CHERUBIM #1

What are Cherubs? - They are the highest order of angelic beings and, as we will later inspect, they are escorts and or guardians of God's presence and or His throne.

I. The Cherubim in the books of Moses - the Pentateuch – (First 5 Bks. of the O.T.)

A. Cherubim and the Garden of Eden:

(Gen.3:23-24) “Therefore the LORD God sent him forth from the garden of Eden, to till the ground from whence he was taken. 24 So he drove out the man; and he placed at the east of the garden of Eden Cherubims, and a flaming sword which turned every way, to keep the way of the tree of life.”

God used cherubims (*plural*) to aid in preventing Adam and Eve from re-entering the Garden of Eden, guarding the way to the tree (*singular*) of life.⁹

B. Cherubim and the Tabernacle:

1. (Ex.25:18) “And thou shalt make two cherubims [of] gold, [of] beaten work shalt thou make them, in the two ends of the mercy seat.”

2. (Ex.25:19) “And make one cherub on the one end, and the other cherub on the other end: [even] of the mercy seat shall ye make the cherubims on the two ends thereof.”

3. (Ex.25:20) “And the cherubims shall stretch forth [their] wings on high, covering the mercy seat with their wings, and their faces [shall look] one to another; toward the mercy seat shall the faces of the cherubims be.”

4. (Ex.25:22) “And there I will meet with thee, and I will commune with thee from above the mercy seat, from between the two cherubims which [are] upon the ark of the testimony, of all [things] which I will give thee in commandment unto the children of Israel.”

5. (Ex.26:1) “Moreover thou shalt make the tabernacle [with] ten curtains [of] fine twined linen, and blue, and purple, and scarlet: [with] cherubims of cunning work shalt thou make them.”

⁹ This tree will be present in the New Jerusalem on either side of the river of life for the redeemed and for the healing of the nations. (Rev.2:7, 22:2, and 22:14)

6. (Ex.26:31) “And thou shalt make a vail [of] blue, and purple, and scarlet, and fine twined linen of cunning work: with cherubims shall it be made:”

7. (Ex.36:8) “And every wise hearted man among them that wrought the work of the tabernacle made ten curtains [of] fine twined linen, and blue, and purple, and scarlet: [with] cherubims of cunning work made he them.”

8. (Ex.36:35) “And he made a vail [of] blue, and purple, and scarlet, and fine twined linen: [with] cherubims made he it of cunning work.”

9. (Ex.37:7) “And he made two cherubims [of] gold, beaten out of one piece made he them, on the two ends of the mercy seat;

10. (Ex. 37:8). One cherub on the end on this side, and another cherub on the [other] end on that side: out of the mercy seat made he the cherubims on the two ends thereof.”

11. (Ex. 37:9) “And the cherubims spread out [their] wings on high, [and] covered with their wings over the mercy seat, with their faces one to another; [even] to the mercy seatward were the faces of the cherubims.”

12. (Num.7:89) “And when Moses was gone into the tabernacle of the congregation to speak with him, then he heard the voice of one speaking unto him from off the mercy seat that [was] upon the ark of testimony, from between the two cherubims: and he spake unto him.”

B. Moses fabricating two golden cherubim

1. *How did Moses know what cherubim literally look like? --*

(Ex.25:9) “According to all that I shew thee, [after] the pattern of the tabernacle, and the pattern of all the instruments thereof, even so shall ye make [it].” Later in the same chapter, God re-emphasizes the importance of following His pattern for every detail of the tabernacle – (Ex.25:40) “And look that thou make [them] after their pattern, which was shewed thee in the mount.”

A few thousand years later, God used the writer of Hebrews to record – “Now of the things which we have spoken [this is] the sum: We have such a high priest, who is set on the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in the heavens; 2. A minister of the sanctuary, and of the true tabernacle, which the Lord pitched, and not man. 3. For every high priest is ordained to offer gifts and sacrifices: wherefore [it is] of necessity that this man have somewhat also to offer. 4. For if he were on earth, he should not be a priest, seeing that there are priests that offer gifts according to the law: 5. Who serve unto the example and shadow of heavenly things, as Moses was admonished of God when he was about to make the tabernacle: for, See, saith he, [that] thou make all things according to the pattern shewed to thee in the mount. 6. But now hath he obtained a more excellent ministry, by how much also he is the mediator of a better covenant, which was established upon better promises. 7. For if that first [covenant] had been faultless, then should no place have been sought for the second.”

(Heb. 8:1-7)

2. Secondly, Moses obediently positioned the cherubim upon the mercy seat atop the Ark of the Covenant in the holies of holies.

3. In addition, God instructed Moses to fabricate the ten curtains for the tabernacle with cherubim on them.

___ Within the holy of holies, God’s presence was between the wings of the cherubim (*note: Numbers 7:89*).

___ Outside the holy of holies, the cherubim on the curtains were constant reminders that God’s presence was on the other side.

From your personal perspective, how has the above confirmed or changed your theology?

C. The priests on the ark above the mercy seat

In Lev.16:14 (“12 And he shall take a censer full of burning coals of fire from off the altar before the LORD, and his hands full of sweet incense beaten small, and bring it within the vail: 13 And he shall put the incense upon the fire before the LORD, that the cloud of the incense may cover the mercy seat that is upon the testimony, that he die not: 14 And he shall take of the blood of the bullock, and sprinkle it with his finger upon the mercy seat eastward; and before the mercy seat shall he sprinkle of the blood with his finger seven times.”)

D. Other Places:

(1Sam.4:4) “So the people sent to Shiloh, that they might bring from thence the ark of the covenant of the LORD of hosts, which dwelleth between the cherubims: and the two sons of Eli, Hophni and Phinehas, were there with the ark of the covenant of God.” (2Sam.6:2) “And David arose, and went with all the people that were with him from Baale of Judah, to bring up from thence the ark of God, whose name is called by the name of the LORD of hosts that dwelleth between the cherubims.” (2Ki.19:15) “And Hezekiah prayed before the LORD, and said, O LORD God of Israel, which dwellest between the cherubims, thou art the God, even thou alone, of all the kingdoms of the earth; thou hast made heaven and earth.” (1Chr.13:6) “And David went up, and all Israel, to Baalah, that is, to Kirjathjearim, which belonged to Judah, to bring up thence the ark of God the LORD, that dwelleth between the cherubims, whose name is called on it.” (Psa.80:1) “To the chief Musician upon Shoshannimeduth, A Psalm of Asaph.>> Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel, thou that leadest Joseph like a flock; thou that dwellest between the cherubims, shine forth.” (Psa.99:1) “The LORD reigneth; let the people tremble: he sitteth between the cherubims; let the earth be moved.” (Isa.37:16) “16 O LORD of hosts, God of Israel, that dwellest between the cherubims, thou art the God, even thou alone, of all the kingdoms of the earth: thou hast made heaven and earth.”

Application: Sinners had to be made just or they could not worship GOD. Thus the high priest, in obedience to GOD would take an approved blood substitute and sprinkle it on the mercy seat. Thus, the judgment of GOD once again passed over GOD’S people until the next time the following year. What was a judgment seat was called & became a place of mercy when the right blood was applied by one properly purified. There is only one way to please & commune with a holy GOD! The cherubim were witnesses of this.

II. The Cherubim in the book of Ezekiel

(Ezekiel 1:1-28) “1 ¶ Now it came to pass in the thirtieth year, in the fourth month, in the fifth day of the month, as I was among the captives by the river of Chebar, that the heavens were opened, and I saw visions of God. 2 In the fifth day of the month, which was the fifth year of king Jehoiachin’s captivity, 3 The word of the LORD came expressly unto Ezekiel the priest, the son of Buzi, in the land of the Chaldeans by the river Chebar; and the hand of the LORD was there upon him. 4 ¶ And I looked, and, behold, a whirlwind came out of the north, a great cloud, and a fire infolding itself, and a brightness was about it, and out of the midst thereof as the colour of amber, out of the midst of the fire. 5 Also out of the midst thereof came the likeness of four living creatures. And this was their appearance; they had the likeness of a man. 6 And every one had four faces, and every one had four wings. 7 And their feet were straight feet; and the sole of their feet was like the sole of a calf’s foot: and they sparkled like the colour of burnished brass. 8 And they had the hands of a man under their wings on their four sides; and they four had their faces and their wings. 9 Their wings were joined one to another; they turned not when they went; they went every one straight forward. 10 As for the likeness of their faces, they four had the face of a man, and the face of a lion, on the right side: and they four had the face of an ox on the left side; they four also had the face of an eagle. 11 Thus were their faces: and their wings were stretched upward; two wings of every one were joined one to another, and two covered their bodies. 12 And they went every one straight forward: whither the spirit was to go, they went; and they turned not when they went. 13 As for the likeness of the living creatures, their appearance was like burning coals of fire, and like the appearance of lamps: it went up and down among the living creatures; and the fire was bright, and out of the fire went forth lightning. 14 And the living creatures ran and returned as the appearance of a flash of lightning. 15 ¶ Now as I beheld the living creatures, behold one wheel upon the earth by the living creatures, with his four faces. 16 The appearance of the wheels and their work was like unto the colour of a beryl: and they four had one likeness: and their appearance and their work was as it were a wheel in the middle of a wheel. 17 When they went, they went upon their four sides: and they turned not when they went. 18 As for their rings, they were so high that they were dreadful; and their rings were full of eyes round about them four. 19 And when the living creatures went, the wheels went by them: and when the living creatures were lifted up from the earth, the wheels were lifted up. 20 Whithersoever the spirit was to go, they went, thither was their spirit to go; and the wheels were lifted up over against

them: for the spirit of the living creature was in the wheels. 21 When those went, these went; and when those stood, these stood; and when those were lifted up from the earth, the wheels were lifted up over against them: for the spirit of the living creature was in the wheels. 22 And the likeness of the firmament upon the heads of the living creature was as the colour of the terrible crystal, stretched forth over their heads above. 23 And under the firmament were their wings straight, the one toward the other: every one had two, which covered on this side, and every one had two, which covered on that side, their bodies. 24 And when they went, I heard the noise of their wings, like the noise of great waters, as the voice of the Almighty, the voice of speech, as the noise of an host: when they stood, they let down their wings. 25 And there was a voice from the firmament that was over their heads, when they stood, and had let down their wings. 26 ¶ And above the firmament that was over their heads was the likeness of a throne, as the appearance of a sapphire stone: and upon the likeness of the throne was the likeness as the appearance of a man above upon it. 27 And I saw as the colour of amber, as the appearance of fire round about within it, from the appearance of his loins even upward, and from the appearance of his loins even downward, I saw as it were the appearance of fire, and it had brightness round about. 28 As the appearance of the bow that is in the cloud in the day of rain, so was the appearance of the brightness round about. This was the appearance of the likeness of the glory of the LORD. And when I saw it, I fell upon my face, and I heard a voice of one that spake.”

(Ezekiel 10:1-22) “1 ¶ Then I looked, and, behold, in the firmament that was above the head of the cherubims there appeared over them as it were a sapphire stone, as the appearance of the likeness of a throne. 2 And he spake unto the man clothed with linen, and said, Go in between the wheels, even under the cherub, and fill thine hand with coals of fire from between the cherubims, and scatter them over the city. And he went in in my sight. 3 Now the cherubims stood on the right side of the house, when the man went in; and the cloud filled the inner court. 4 Then the glory of the LORD went up from the cherub, and stood over the threshold of the house; and the house was filled with the cloud, and the court was full of the brightness of the LORD’S glory. 5 And the sound of the cherubims’ wings was heard even to the outer court, as the voice of the Almighty God when he speaketh. 6 And it came to pass, that when he had commanded the man clothed with linen, saying, Take fire from between the wheels, from between the cherubims; then he went in, and stood beside the wheels. 7 And one cherub stretched forth his hand from between the cherubims unto the fire that was between the cherubims, and took thereof, and put it into the hands of him that was clothed with linen: who took it, and went out. 8 ¶ And there appeared in the cherubims the form of a man’s hand under their wings. 9 And when I looked, behold the four wheels by the cherubims, one wheel by one cherub, and another wheel by another cherub: and the appearance of the wheels was as the colour of a beryl stone. 10 And as for their appearances, they four had one likeness, as if a wheel had been in the midst of a wheel. 11 When they went, they went upon their four sides; they turned not as they went, but to the place whither the head looked they followed it; they turned not as they went. 12 And their whole body, and their backs, and their hands, and their wings, and the wheels, were full of eyes round about, even the wheels that they four had. 13 As for the wheels, it was cried unto them in my hearing, O wheel. 14 And every one had four faces: the first face was the face of a cherub, and the second face was the face of a man, and the third the face of a lion, and the fourth the face of an eagle. 15 And the cherubims were lifted up. This is the living creature that I saw by the river of Chebar. 16 And when the cherubims went, the wheels went by them: and when the cherubims lifted up their wings to mount up from the earth, the same wheels also turned not from beside them. 17 When they stood, these stood; and when they were lifted up, these lifted up themselves also: for the spirit of the living creature was in them. 18 Then the glory of the LORD departed from off the threshold of the house, and stood over the cherubims. 19 And the cherubims lifted up their wings, and mounted up from the earth in my sight: when they went out, the wheels also were beside them, and every one stood at the door of the east gate of the LORD’S house; and the glory of the God of Israel was over them above. 20 This is the living creature that I saw under the God of Israel by the river of Chebar; and I knew that they were the cherubims. 21 Every one had four faces apiece, and every one four wings; and the likeness of the hands of a man was under their wings. 22 And the likeness of their faces was the same faces which I saw by the river of Chebar, their appearances and themselves: they went every one straight forward.”

A. appearance – ch.1

B. Their location is where GOD is.

C. Their job seems to be that of guarding GOD’S throne.

D. significance – They have to do with the holiness of GOD as outraged by sin.

REMEMER:

1. The devil is a fallen cherub:

(Ezekiel 28:14-15) “Thou art the anointed cherub that covereth; and I have set thee so: thou wast upon the holy mountain of God; thou hast walked up and down in the midst of the stones of fire. 15 Thou wast perfect in thy ways from the day that thou wast created, till iniquity was found in thee.”

2. GOD’S ways; GOD’S will; and GOD’S words will always prevail !!!!!!!

“God's Incredible Angels”

THE CHERUBIM #2

(1Sam. 4:4) “So the people sent to Shiloh, that they might bring from thence the ark of the covenant of the LORD of hosts, which dwelleth [between] the cherubims: and the two sons of Eli, Hophni and Phinehas, [were] there with the ark of the covenant of God.”

I. To Israel, during the time of Saul, the ark, the cherubims and the present of God were un-separable.

A. In the context where the above verse is located, we learn that Israel was in battle with the philistines.

1. During their first engagement, Israel’s casualties were “**about four thousand men.**”

2. They did not hesitate in blaming their defeat on the Lord. Thus, they said, “...Let us fetch the ark of the covenant of the LORD out of Shiloh unto us, that, when it cometh among us, it may save us out of the hand of our enemies. (1Sam.4:4)

3. Eli’s sons brought the ark, Saul’s army shouted and alarmed the Philistines, but it did not deter the Philistines from triggering a second attack.

4. This engagement deeply cost Israel - thirty thousand additional men, the ark, the two sons of Eli, and Eli himself. In addition, Eli’s daughter in law went into labor, died in the birthing process, and the midwife named the child “Ichabod” (*no glory*) and went on to say, “...The glory is departed from Israel: for the ark of God is taken.”

1. They appeared to have had more faith in the ark and the cherubim than in God.

2. God cannot nor will He permit Himself to be under the control of man’s desires.

3. Presumption can be fatal.

4. God’s presence is not bound to reside between the cherubims.

(2Sa 6:2) “And David arose, and went with all the people that [were] with him from Baale of Judah, to bring up from thence the ark of God, whose name is called by the name of the LORD of hosts that dwelleth [between] the cherubims.

(1Ch 13:6) And David went up, and all Israel, to Baalah, [that is], to Kirjathjearim, which [belonged] to Judah, to bring up thence the ark of God the LORD, that dwelleth [between] the cherubims, whose name is called [on it].”

II. When all The God-instructed preparations were properly performed by the right people and at the right time, God would reveal Himself from between the Cherubims.

A. “...name of the LORD of hosts that dwelleth [between] the cherubims.” i.e. *Jehovah-Zebaoth* – the side of the divine nature which is turned towards men.

1. Although the ark had resided at the house Abinadab (*a Levite*) for seventy years after it was recovered back from the Philistines, God desired for His ark to be transported only by priests in a specific fashion and

then, when all was properly set in the right place, only the high priest was permitted to access God's Divine presence.

Here, we note that that not only was God's presence and the cherubim viewed as un-separable but a new descriptive name was attributed to God reflecting His will toward man. Thus, from between the cherubims, either in the tabernacle or later in the temple, God would manifest Himself for His glory and the benefit of His people.

III. Cherubims in the Psalms

(Psa. 18:10) "And he rode upon a cherub, and did fly: and he was seen upon the wings of the wind."

A. Here David addresses the chief musician in a Psalm telling him of a very special time - (Psa.18:1) "... who spake unto the LORD the words of this song in the day [that] the LORD delivered him from the hand of all his enemies, and from the hand of Saul: And he said,> I will love thee, O LORD, my strength." With his mind upon God's presence above the ark, David sends praises to the chief musician focusing upon God's presence quickly showing up and delivering from His enemies.

(Psa.99:1) "The LORD reigneth; let the people tremble: he sitteth [between] the cherubims; let the earth be moved."

B. In this Psalm of nine verses David, once again, records his praises to God – this time of His sovereignty and holiness. Because of God's unique place in his life, David is quick to associate God's presence with His special created escort, thus, connecting the two with God's throne.

(Psa. 80:1) "To the chief Musician upon Shoshannimeduth (*pronounced sho-shan-neem*'), A Psalm of Asaph.> Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel, thou that leadest Joseph like a flock; thou that dwellest [between] the cherubims, shine forth."

C. Asaph was a Levite from the lineage of Gershon (*Moses' oldest son*) and was the primary overseer and recorder of all the music played and sung during the temple worship times throughout reign of King David. There is little doubt but that He, too, had seen God presence at times and was well grounded in the significance of the cherubims.

Both David and Asaph encouraged and insisted that one of the crucial parts of worship is that of praising God for all He is and all He does! With full assurance, we understand that when God's people are right He does dwell in their praises (Psa 22:3).

To these worshippers, the cherubims were like compass needles that pointed directly to God!

Isaiah's conviction of the same axiom surfaces in Isaiah chapter 37 verse 16.

IV. King Solomon, the Temple, and the Cherubims

A. God's Spirit gave the pattern of the temple to David and then David passed it on to his son - Solomon. (II Chr.28:10-13)

(1Ki 6:23-29) "And within the oracle he made two cherubims [of] olive tree, [each] ten cubits high. 24 And five cubits [was] the one wing of the cherub, and five cubits the other wing of the cherub: from the uttermost part of the one wing unto the uttermost part of the other [were] ten cubits. 25 And the other cherub [was] ten cubits: both the cherubims [were] of one measure and one size. 26 The height of the one cherub [was] ten cubits, and so [was it] of the other cherub. 27 And he set the cherubims within the inner house: and they stretched forth the wings of the cherubims, so that the wing of the one touched the [one] wall, and the wing of the other cherub touched the other wall; and their wings touched one another in the midst of the house. 28 And he overlaid the cherubims with gold. 29 And he carved all the walls of the house round about with carved figures of cherubims and palm trees and open flowers, within and without." (1Ki 6:32,35;7:29,36; 8:6,7) The two doors also [were of] olive tree; and he carved upon them carvings of cherubims and palm trees and open flowers, and overlaid [them] with gold, and spread gold upon the cherubims, and upon the palm trees... 35

And he carved [thereon] cherubims and palm trees and open flowers: and covered [them] with gold fitted upon the carved work. 7:29 And on the borders that [were] between the ledges [were] lions, oxen, and cherubims: and upon the ledges [there was] a base above: and beneath the lions and oxen [were] certain additions made of thin work...36 For on the plates of the ledges thereof, and on the borders thereof, he graved cherubims, lions, and palm trees, according to the proportion of every one, and additions round about. 8:6 And the priests brought in the ark of the covenant of the LORD unto his place, into the oracle of the house, to the most holy [place, even] under the wings of the cherubims. For the cherubims spread forth [their] two wings over the place of the ark, and the cherubims covered the ark and the staves thereof above.”
Also note: (2Chr. 3:7,10,11-14; 5:7-8; 28:18;Heb.9:5)

Solomon said to Hiram king of Tyre, “And, behold, I purpose to build an house unto the name of the LORD my God, as the LORD spake unto David my father, saying, Thy son, whom I will set upon thy throne in thy room, he shall build an house unto my name.” (1Ki. 5:5)

Solomon started construction of the temple 480 years after the children of Israel left Egypt – in the month of *Zif*, corresponding to our April and May, in B.C.1011. After seven years, the project was completed and dedicated to the Lord. His obedience in carrying out all the details in the holy of holies, especially with all the cherubims, would stand as constant reminders to all priests, for the next 425 years, of God’s name, His presence, His holiness, and His desire to reside among His people. Students of Scripture cannot over emphasize the importance of the cherubim, large or small, on the ark, on curtains, or gold plated carvings! If the high priest ever lost his reverence for God during his tenure of service, not only would he greatly suffer but so would his entire family, in one way or another. In addition, his actions could very easily influence the remaining priests to do likewise.

Thus, God not only used the icons and fabrications of cherubims to point His people to Himself but having the privilege to witness God’s presence between the cherubim upon the ark carried a tremendous responsibility before God and others.

Although we do not utilize cherubims in our times of worship, we too, have something that serves in directing us to God and this is vastly greater than the cherubims – God’s Word!



God's Incredible Angels”

THE CHERUBIM #3

Ezekiel’s Vision, The Four Faces, And The Encampment

I. A little about Ezekiel

Four years after the final deportation to Babylon, “...he began a prophetic Career that was to last more than twenty years, all of it in Babylon....Of all the prophets, Ezekiel was probably the most colorful. He used pantomime (a lot of gestures – added by me), would cry and wail and slap his thighs, ate a scroll, and did many other unusual things to burn his messages into the minds of the people. Some of his visions are unusually arresting in their graphic details. From Ezekiel we get a picture of a holy, transcendent God whose name and glory must be protected. By contrast, Judah had sunk to the depths of depravity in national apostasy. God had to punish His people because of His hatred of idolatry, but He never ceased to love them. Not only was Judah's sin a national one, but Ezekiel stressed individual responsibility for one's own sins to an extent unparalleled in the rest of the Old Testament. Ezekiel forms the important background for many passages in the New Testament, but this is perhaps true more of Revelation than any other book. Material from most of Ezekiel's chapters is quoted or alluded to in all but one chapter in Revelation.”

Spiros Zodhiates

II. Our Text

Ezek.1:1-3:21; 10:1-24

captives by the river of **Eze 1:1-28** “Now it came to pass in the thirtieth year, in the fourth [month], in the fifth [day] of the month, as I [was] among the Chebar, [that] the heavens were opened, and I saw visions of God. 2 In the fifth [day] of the month, which [was] the fifth year of king Jehoiachin's captivity [taken in B.C. 597-5= B.C.594], 3 The word of the LORD came expressly unto Ezekiel the priest, the son of Buzi, in the land of the Chaldeans by the river Chebar; and the hand of the LORD was there upon him. 4 And I looked, and, behold, a whirlwind came out of the north, a great cloud, and a fire infolding itself, and a brightness [was] about it, and out of the midst thereof as the colour of amber, out of the midst of the fire. 5 Also out of the midst thereof [came] the likeness of four living creatures. And this [was] their appearance; they had the likeness of a man. 6 And every one had four faces, and every one had four wings. 7 And their feet [were] straight feet; and the sole of their feet [was] like the sole of a calf's foot: and they sparkled like the colour of burnished brass. 8 And [they had] the hands of a man under their wings on their four sides; and they four had their faces and their wings. 9 Their wings [were] joined one to another; they turned not when they went; they went every one straight forward. 10 As for the likeness of their faces, they four had the face of a man, and the face of a lion, on the right side: and they four had the face of an ox on the left side; they four also had the face of an eagle. 11 Thus [were] their faces: and their wings [were] stretched upward; two [wings] of every one [were] joined one to another, and two covered their bodies. 12 And they went every one straight forward: whither the spirit was to go, they went; [and] they turned not when they went. 13 As for the likeness of the living creatures, their appearance [was] like burning coals of fire, [and] like the appearance of lamps: it went up and down among the living creatures; and the fire was bright, and out of the fire went forth lightning. 14 And the living creatures ran and returned as the appearance of a flash of lightning. 15 Now as I beheld the living creatures, behold one wheel upon the earth by the living creatures, with his four faces. 16 The appearance of the wheels and their work [was] like unto the colour of a beryl: and they four had one likeness: and their appearance and their work [was] as it were a wheel in the middle of a wheel. 17 When they went, they went upon their four sides: [and] they turned not when they went. 18 As for their rings, they were so high that they were dreadful; and their rings [were] full of eyes round about them four. 19 And when the living creatures went, the wheels went by them: and when the living creatures were lifted up from the earth, the wheels were lifted up. 1:20 Whithersoever the spirit was to go, they went, thither [was their] spirit to go; and the wheels were lifted up over against them: for the spirit of the living creature [was] in the wheels. 21 When those went, [these] went; and when those stood, [these] stood; and when those were lifted up from the earth, the wheels were lifted up

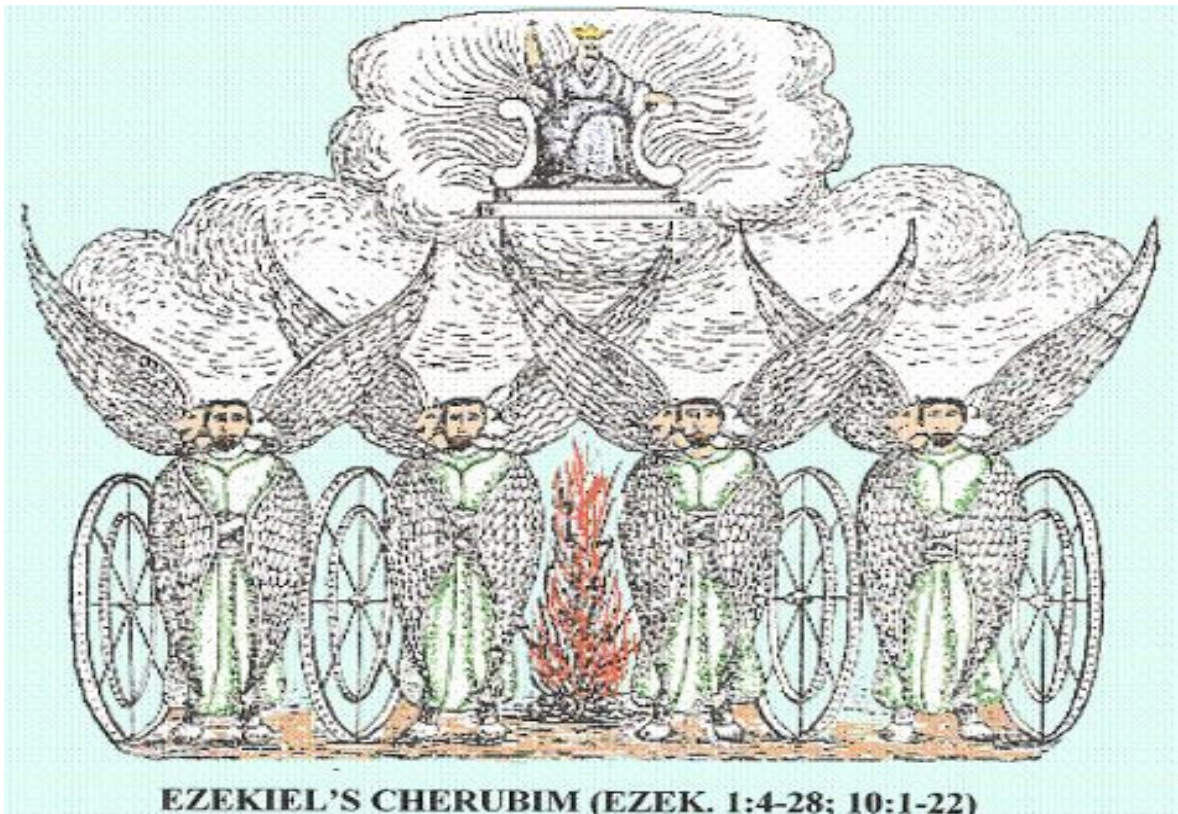
over against them: for the spirit of the living creature *[was]* in the wheels. 22 And the likeness of the firmament upon the heads of the living creature *[was]* as the colour of the terrible crystal, stretched forth over their heads above. 23 And under the firmament *[were]* their wings straight, the one toward the other: every one had two, which covered on this side, and every one had two, which covered on that side, their bodies.

24 And when they went, I heard the noise of their wings, like the noise of great waters, as the voice of the Almighty, the voice of speech, as the noise of an host: when they stood, they let down their wings. 25 And there was a voice from the firmament that *[was]* over their heads, when they stood, *[and]* had let down their wings. 26 And above the firmament that *[was]* over their heads *[was]* the likeness of a throne, as the appearance of a sapphire stone: and upon the likeness of the throne *[was]* the likeness as the appearance of a man above upon it. 27 And I saw as the colour of amber, as the appearance of fire round about within it, from the appearance of his loins even upward, and from the appearance of his loins even downward, I saw as it were the appearance of fire, and it had brightness round about. 28 As the appearance of the bow that is in the cloud in the day of rain, so *[was]* the appearance of the brightness round about. This *[was]* the appearance of the likeness of the glory of the LORD. And when I saw *[it]*, I fell upon my face, and I heard a voice of one that spake. Eze.2:1-10 And he said unto me, Son of man, stand upon thy feet, and I will speak unto thee. :2 And the spirit entered into me when he spake unto me, and set me upon my feet, that I heard him that spake unto me. 3 And he said unto me, Son of man, I send thee to the children of Israel, to a rebellious nation that hath rebelled against me: they and their fathers have transgressed against me, *[even]* unto this very day. 4 For *[they are]* impudent children and stiffhearted. I do send thee unto them; and thou shalt say unto them, Thus saith the Lord GOD. 5 And they, whether they will hear, or whether they will forbear, (for they *[are]* a rebellious house,) yet shall know that there hath been a prophet among them. 6 And thou, son of man, be not afraid of them, neither be afraid of their words, though briers and thorns *[be]* with thee, and thou dost dwell among scorpions: be not afraid of their words, nor be dismayed at their looks, though they *[be]* a rebellious house. 7 And thou shalt speak my words unto them, whether they will hear, or whether they will forbear: for they *[are]* most rebellious. 8 But thou, son of man, hear what I say unto thee; Be not thou rebellious like that rebellious house: open thy mouth, and eat that I give thee. 9 And when I looked, behold, an hand *[was]* sent unto me; and, lo, a roll of a book *[was]* therein; 10 And he spread it before me; and it *[was]* written within and without: and *[there was]* written therein lamentations, and mourning, and woe. Eze.3:1-21 Moreover he said unto me, Son of man, eat that thou findest; eat this roll, and go speak unto the house of Israel. 2 So I opened my mouth, and he caused me to eat that roll. 3 And he said unto me, Son of man, cause thy belly to eat, and fill thy bowels with this roll that I give thee. Then did I eat *[it]*; and it was in my mouth as honey for sweetness. 4 And he said unto me, Son of man, go, get thee unto the house of Israel, and speak with my words unto them. 5 For thou *[art]* not sent to a people of a strange speech and of an hard language, *[but]* to the house of Israel; 6 Not to many people of a strange speech and of an hard language, whose words thou canst not understand. Surely, had I sent thee to them, they would have hearkened unto thee. 7 But the house of Israel will not hearken unto thee; for they will not hearken unto me: for all the house of Israel *[are]* impudent and hardhearted. 8 Behold, I have made thy face strong against their faces, and thy forehead strong against their foreheads. 9 As an adamant harder than flint have I made thy forehead: fear them not, neither be dismayed at their looks, though they *[be]* a rebellious house. 10 Moreover he said unto me, Son of man, all my words that I shall speak unto thee receive in thine heart, and hear with thine ears. 11 And go, get thee to them of the captivity, unto the children of thy people, and speak unto them, and tell them, Thus saith the Lord GOD; whether they will hear, or whether they will forbear. 12 Then the spirit took me up, and I heard behind me a voice of a great rushing, *[saying]*, Blessed *[be]* the glory of the LORD from his place. 13 *[I heard]* also the noise of the wings of the living creatures that touched one another, and the noise of the wheels over against them, and a noise of a great rushing. 14 So the spirit lifted me up, and took me away, and I went in bitterness, in the heat of my spirit; but the hand of the LORD was strong upon me. 15 Then I came to them of the captivity at Telabib, that dwelt by the river of Chebar, and I sat where they sat, and remained there astonished among them seven days. 16 And it came to pass at the end of seven days, that the word of the LORD came unto me, saying, 17 Son of man, I have made thee a watchman unto the house of Israel: therefore hear the word at my mouth, and give them warning from me. 18 When I say unto the wicked, Thou shalt surely die; and thou givest him not warning, nor speakest to warn the wicked from his wicked way, to save his life; the same wicked *[man]* shall die in his iniquity; but his blood will I require at thine hand. Eze 3:19 Yet if thou warn the wicked, and he turn not from his wickedness, nor from his wicked way, he shall die in his iniquity; but thou hast delivered thy soul. 20 Again, When a righteous *[man]* doth turn from his righteousness, and commit iniquity, and I lay a stumblingblock before him, he shall die: because thou hast not given him warning, he shall die in his sin, and his righteousness which he hath done shall not be remembered; but his blood will I require at thine hand. 21 Nevertheless if thou warn the righteous *[man]*, that the righteous sin not, and he doth not sin, he shall surely live, because he is warned; also thou hast delivered thy soul.

Eze. 10:1-22 Then I looked, and, behold, in the firmament that was above the head of the cherubims there appeared over them as it were a sapphire stone, as the appearance of the likeness of a throne. 2 And he spake unto the man clothed with linen, and said, Go in between the wheels, *[even]* under the cherub, and fill thine hand with coals of fire from between the cherubims, and scatter *[them]* over the city. And he went in in my sight. 3 Now the cherubims stood on the right side of

the house, when the man went in; and the cloud filled the inner court. 4 Then the glory of the LORD went up from the cherub, *[and stood]* over the threshold of the house; and the house was filled with the cloud, and the court was full of the brightness of the LORD'S glory. 5 And the sound of the cherubims' wings was heard *[even]* to the outer court, as the voice of the Almighty God when he speaketh. 6 And it came to pass, *[that]* when he had commanded the man clothed with linen, saying, Take fire from between the wheels, from between the cherubims; then he went in, and stood beside the wheels. 7 And *[one]* cherub stretched forth his hand from between the cherubims unto the fire that *[was]* between the cherubims, and took *[thereof]*, and put *[it]* into the hands of *[him that was]* clothed with linen: who took *[it]*, and went out. 8 And there appeared in the cherubims the form of a man's hand under their wings. 9 And when I looked, behold the four wheels by the cherubims, one wheel by one cherub, and another wheel by another cherub: and the appearance of the wheels *[was]* as the colour of a beryl stone. 10 And *[as for]* their appearances, they four had one likeness, as if a wheel had been in the midst of a wheel. 11 When they went, they went upon their four sides; they turned not as they went, but to the place whither the head looked they followed it; they turned not as they went. 12 And their whole body, and their backs, and their hands, and their wings, and the wheels, *[were]* full of eyes round about, *[even]* the wheels that they four had. 13 As for the wheels, it was cried unto them in my hearing, O wheel. 14 And every one had four faces: the first face *[was]* the face of a cherub, and the second face *[was]* the face of a man, and the third the face of a lion, and the fourth the face of an eagle. 15 And the cherubims were lifted up. This *[is]* the living creature that I saw by the river of Chebar. 16 And when the cherubims went, the wheels went by them: and when the cherubims lifted up their wings to mount up from the earth, the same wheels also turned not from beside them. 17 When they stood, *[these]* stood; and when they were lifted up, *[these]* lifted up themselves *[also]*: for the spirit of the living creature *[was]* in them. 18 Then the glory of the LORD departed from off the threshold of the house, and stood over the cherubims. 19 And the cherubims lifted up their wings, and mounted up from the earth in my sight: when they went out, the wheels also *[were]* beside them, and *[every one]* stood at the door of the east gate of the LORD'S house; and the glory of the God of Israel *[was]* over them above. 20 This *[is]* the living creature that I saw under the God of Israel by the river of Chebar; and I knew that they *[were]* the cherubims. 21 Every one had four faces apiece, and every one four wings; and the likeness of the hands of a man *[was]* under their wings. 22 And the likeness of their faces *[was]* the same faces which I saw by the river of Chebar, their appearances and themselves: they went every one straight forward.





EZEKIEL'S CHERUBIM (EZEK. 1:4-28; 10:1-22)

By C.L. Larkin

**“The Four Faces Of The Cherubim In
The Camp Of The Israelites”**

