

BIBLE DOCTRINE SURVEY

Pastor Thomas D. Alexander

First Baptist Church
Wellington, OH

SESSION 6

ANGELOLOGY:

The Doctrine Of Angels (Holy and Fallen)

This doctrinal study was prepared by Pastor Tom Alexander for use in a Bible Doctrine Survey class at Berea Baptist Bible School in Berea, Ohio, and reflects his personal doctrinal beliefs.

Every effort has been made to give credit to original sources. If a citation is lacking, please contact Pastor Alexander at Pastor@FirstBaptistWellington.org and it will be corrected on the church's web site.

Permission is granted for use of this study for personal use and for up to 50 copies for local church use. Please contact Pastor Alexander for any other permission.

BIBLE DOCTRINE SURVEY
Pastor Tom Alexander

Session 6 - Angelology: The Doctrine Of Angels (Holy & Fallen)

PREFACE: THE IMPORTANCE OF ANGELS IN SCRIPTURE

1. Angels (holy and fallen) are referred to literally hundreds of times in the Old and New Testaments. (*estimate - over 400 references*)
 - * Note: The “Angel of the Lord” in the Old Testament usually refers to Christ.
 - * Note: The terms translated “angel” can be used of humans (see Rev 2-3).
2. Angels are mentioned in 34 books of the Bible, from the first (Genesis or Job!) to the last.
3. The word translated “angel” in both the Old and New Testaments means “messenger.”

1. THE NATURE OF ANGELS

* Note: These characteristics are true of *all* angels - those who are holy and those who are fallen!

A. They Are Spirit Beings

1. They are clearly identified as spirits in Scripture - Ps 104:4; Heb 1:7, 13-14
2. They do have angelic bodies - Isa 6:2; Lk 1:11-12; Lk 2:8-15
 - * These bodies differ from human bodies. They are not bodies of flesh and blood - Eph 2:12
 - * Angels are normally invisible to the human eye - II Kings 6:15-17
 - * When they are seen, they are often startling or fearful in appearance - Lk 1:12-13; 2:9
3. They can and do appear at times as men - Gen 18-19; Heb 13:2
4. They are designated as masculine in gender in Scripture - Gen 18:1-2, 22; 19:1
 - * Angels are called “he,” not “she” in Scripture. Named angels have masculine names.
5. They do not grow old; they are not subject to death - Lk 20:35-36

B. They Are Personal Beings

* They are not just a force or influence. They are true personal beings.

1. They possess the characteristics of a person.
 - a. Intellect - I Pet 1:1-12; Eph 3:10; Mt 8:29; I Tim 4:1
 - b. Emotions
 - * Joy - Lk 15:10
 - * Praise & worship - Lk 2:13-14
 - * Fear - Jas 2:19
 - * Anger - Rev 12:17
 - c. A will - Jude 6; II Tim 2:26; Isa 14:12-14

2. Personal pronouns are used of them - Acts 12:7-9; Rev 12:9
 - * They are called “he,” not “it.”
3. They interact with others as personal beings -
 - * The angels and Lot - Gen 19:1-23
 - * Gabriel and Daniel - Dan 9:20-23
 - * Gabriel and Mary - Lk 1:26-38
 - * Satan and Christ - Mt 4:1-11
4. They have moral responsibility as persons - Mt 25:41; II Pet 2:12; Rev 20:10

C. They Are Created Beings

1. They were directly created by God - Ps 148:2, 5; Col 1:16
 - * Note the contrast: Adam and Eve were created directly by God, but we were “created” through the process of birth. The same is true of all the animals since creation.
2. They were created in a state of holiness - Gen 1:31; Jude 6
3. They were created before the creation of the world - Job 38:6-7
 - * There is a discussion among theologians as to whether they were created before the 6 days of creation. Exo 20:11 seems to indicate that they were created within the 6-day period. However, this may refer to the creation of the physical universe, not to the creation of spirits.
4. An innumerable number of angels were created - Heb 12:22; Rev 5:11-12
5. The number of angels is stable. No new angels are being born. Angels do not reproduce - Mt 22:33; Mk 12:25
 - * What happened in Genesis 6? Some theologians believe that fallen angels cohabitated with human women to produce “giants” as offspring. Others believe that the “sons of God” were godly Sethites who married ungodly daughters of Cain.
6. Humans and angels are distinct classes of beings. Angels are not glorified humans. Humans do not become angels when they die - Mt 22:30; Ps 8:4-5
7. The order of angels in creation
 - a. They are a higher order of created being than man - Ps 8:4-6; Heb 2:7, 9
 - * They have greater power than man - II Pet 2:10-11; Gen 19:10-11; Mt 28:2-4; Isa 14:12
 - * They have greater knowledge than man - II Sam 14:20; Gen 3:5
 - b. They are a lower order of being than God. They are subject to God - Exo 15:11; Ps 71:19; 113:5; Eph 1:20-22; I Pet 3:22
 - * They are *not* omnipotent, omnipresent, or omniscient!
 - c. They serve man - Heb 1:14
 - d. They are not to be worshiped by man - Col 2:18; Rev 19:10

- e. They learn from observing man - I Pet 1:12; Eph 3:10
- f. Man will be involved in judging angels - I Cor 6:3

D. They Are Organized Beings

1. The Bible indicates various ranks and stations of holy and fallen angels - Eph 3:10; 6:12
2. There are specific powerful angels:
 - a. Michael, the archangel - Dan 3:10; 10:21; Jude 9; Rev 12:7
 - * Michael is the only archangel named in Scripture. There may be more, but they are not specifically identified.
 - * Michael appears to have a special relationship to Israel.
 - b. Gabriel has a special role as God's messenger - Dan 8:16; 9:21; Lk 1:19; 1:26
 - c. There are other "chief princes" - Dan 10:13
 - d. Satan is the most powerful of angels - Jude 1:9; Eph 2:2
3. There are specific classes of angels
 - a. Cherubim - Gen 3:22-24; Exo 25:17-22
 - * They have ministries related to the throne of God. They guard the holiness of God.
 - b. Seraphim - Isa 6
 - * They are involved with the worship of God.

E. They Are Moral Beings

1. They were created in a state of holiness - Gen 1:31; Jude 6
2. They are subject to Christ - I Pet 3:22
3. When Satan sinned, many angels fell with him - Isa 14:12-14; Rev 12:3-4
 - * Those angels that did not sin have been confirmed in their holy state. They are no longer subject to the temptation to sin and turn from God.
4. They will be judged by God - II Pet 2:4; Mt 25:41; Rev 12:7-9; 20:10
 - * Fallen angels have no hope for salvation.

2. HOLY ANGELS

A. Their Ministry For God

1. They praise and worship the Father and Son - Ps 148:1-2; Isa 6; Rev 4-5; Heb 1:6
2. They communicate God's messages - Lk 1:26-38; Heb 2:2; Rev 14:6-7
3. They inflict punishment at God's command - Acts 12:21-23; Rev 8ff
4. At the end of the Tribulation they will separate the "wheat" from the "tares" - Mt 13:39

B. Their Ministry To Christ

1. They predicted His birth - Lk 1:26-33
2. They announced His birth - Lk 2:8-15
3. They protected the baby Jesus - Mt 2:13
4. They strengthened Christ following the temptation - Mt 4:11
5. They strengthened Christ in Gethsemane - Lk 22:43
6. They were prepared to defend Christ at any time - Mt 26:53
7. They rolled the stone away from the tomb - Mt 28:2
8. They announced Christ's resurrection - Mt 28:6
9. They were present at the ascension - Acts 1:11
10. They will accompany Christ at His Second Coming - Mt 25:31

C. Their Ministry To Believers

1. They have a general ministry of helping believers - Heb 1:14
2. They are involved in answering prayer - Acts 12:5-7; Dan 10:11-12
3. They aid in the evangelistic efforts of Christians - Acts 8:26; Acts 10
4. They rejoice over sinners that repent - Lk 15:10
5. They encourage saints in time of danger - Acts 27:22-25
6. They deliver saints from danger - Acts 5:17-19; 12:7-10
7. They observe Christians' experiences - I Cor 4:9; I Tim 5:21
8. They care for the righteous at death - Lk 16:22; Jude 9

3. SATAN

* Reminder: Everything said about the nature of angels is true of Satan. He is a personal spirit being. He is a created angel. He is more powerful than man and other angels, but he is not God or a "god."

A. His Original State

1. He was created by Christ - Jn 1:1-3; Col 1:16-17
2. He was created as the holy angel Lucifer - Isa 14:12
3. He was created within the class of angels known as cherubim - Ezek 28:12-14
 - * He seems to have had a special service of protecting the holiness of God.
4. He was created without sin - Gen 1:31; Ezek 28:14-15
5. He is not a "god"
 - a. There is only one true God - Deut 4:35; 6:4
 - b. He is not eternal - Jn 1:3

- c. He is not omnipresent - Job 1:6-7
- d. He is not omniscient - Job 1:8-11
- e. He is not omnipotent - Job 1:9-12

B. His Sin - Isa 14:12-15; Ezek 28:12-19

* Interpretive problem: Both of these prophecies deal with kings over nations who were Israel's enemies. Bible scholars are divided, but most conservative scholars feel there is a second, deeper message in these passages to Satan, who was the power behind these kings. If these passages do not apply to Satan, then we have almost no knowledge about his origin and sin.

1. The angel Lucifer

- * The name "Lucifer" means "Light Bearer; Shining One; Morning Star"
- * He was a glorious angel, possibly the greatest of all angels when he was created - Jude 9
- * He was known for his wisdom - Ezek 28:12
- * He was beautiful and glorious in his appearance - Ezek 28:12-13
 - ~ Some feel he had the responsibility of leading the worship music in Heaven
- * He held a position of great power and authority - Isa 14:12; Ezek 28:13-14

2. Lucifer's fall and the origin of sin

- a. The timing of Lucifer's fall - Gen 1:31; 3:1
 - * It had to be after the final day of creation and prior to the temptation of Eve in the Garden of Eden. How much time passed is unknown.
- b. The nature of Lucifer's fall - Ezek 28:15-18; Isa 14:12-14
 - * God created Lucifer as a sinless, holy being.
 - * Sin was "found in him." Sin originated with him!
 - * Lucifer's sin was pride. He wanted to be God!
- c. The impact of Lucifer's fall
 - * He led other angels to fall - Rev 12:3-4
 - * He tempted Adam and Eve to sin - Gen 3:1-6
 - * He brought a curse on all creation - Gen 3:14-19
 - * God prepared the Lake of Fire - Mt 25:41
- d. The judgment of Satan for his sin
 - * His immediate judgment - He lost his high and exalted position in God's presence - Ezek 28:16-19
 - * His ultimate judgment - The Lake of Fire - Isa 14:15; Rev 20:10

C. His Names

1. Primary names and titles

a. Satan - I Chron 21:1; Job 1:6

- * The most common name for Satan.
- * This seems to be his personal name.
- * The primary meaning of this name is “adversary.” He is God’s adversary or opponent

b. The Devil - Mt 4:1

- * This is a primary title for Satan, meaning “accuser” or “slanderer.”
- * This term is used three times in the New Testament in reference to people!
- * There are four times in the Old Testament and many times in the New Testament when the English word “devil” or “devils” is used in reference to demons. The word in the original language is different.

2. Secondary names

a. Belial - II Cor 6:15

- * The worthless one; The wicked one

b. Beelzebub - Mt 12:24

- * “The Lord of the Flies” - The vile and loathsome prince of demons

3. Names and titles of creatures used of Satan

a. That Old Serpent - Gen 3:1; Rev 12:9; 20:2

- * This is how Satan first appears in Scripture. It refers to his guile and craftiness. He is a deceiver!

b. The Dragon - Rev 12:3ff; 20:2

- * Indicative of Satan’s fierce nature, especially in battle.

c. A Roaring Lion - I Pet 5:8

- * Satan’s fierce nature as he is out to devour believers.

d. An Angel of Light - II Cor 11:14-15

- * Satan is a deceiver. He is the ultimate counterfeiter.

4. Names and titles reflecting character traits

a. The Tempter - Mt 4:3; I Thess 3:5

b. The Accuser of the Brethren - Rev 12:10

c. The Wicked One - I Jn 2:13-14

d. Murderer - Jn 8:44

e. A Liar and the Father of Lies - Jn 8:44

5. Names and titles in relation to the world
 - a. Prince of this World - Jn 12:31
 - b. God of this World (Age) - II Cor 4:4
 - c. Prince of the Power of the Air - Eph 2:2
 - * He is the ruler of all the demonic powers.
 - d. The Spirit that Works in the Children of Disobedience - Eph 2:2

D. Satan's Strategies

1. His "P O W" (Prisoner Of War) Attacks - He Assaults The Lost
 - a. To Keep Them From Understanding The Gospel - II Cor 4:4
 - b. To Keep Them From Believing - Lk 8:12; Mt 13:19; Mk 4:15
 - c. To Trap Them As His Captives - II Tim 2:25-26
2. His Political Attacks - He Controls World Affairs
 - a. He Controls The World System - I Jn 5:19; Jn 12:31; II Cor 4:4
 - b. He Has Control Over Nations And Their Leaders - Dan 10:12-13; Rev 13:1-2; II Th 2:9
3. His Frontal Attacks - He Destroys And Devours - I Pet 5:8
 - a. Through Occultism (Setting Himself Up As God) - Rev 13:4; I Cor 10:19-21; Isa 14:12-14
 - b. Through Entering ("Possessing") Men - Jn 13:2, 27
 - c. Through Disease & Death - Lk 13:16; Acts 10:38; II Cor 12:7; Heb 2:14
 - d. Through Direct Personal Attacks - Job 1:9-12; 2:3-6; Lk 22:31; Eph 6:16
 - e. Through Temptations To Sin - Mt 4:1; I Th 3:5; I Cor 7:5; Acts 5:3; Eph 4:27; Jas 3:6; I Tim 5:14-15; I Chron 21:1-2
 - f. Through Persecuting The Church - Rev 12:9-17; Rev 2:10, 13
 - g. Through Hindering God's Work - I Th 2:18; Zech 3:1
 - h. Through Causing Loss Of Testimony And Power - II Cor 2:11; Rev 2-3
4. His Sneak Attacks - He Deceives And Counterfeits
 - a. Through False Religions - I Tim 4:1; II Cor 11:3-4, 13-15; Rev 2:9; 3:9; 9:20; Mt 13:37-40; I Cor 10:20; II Th 2:9-12; Rev 13:4; 16:13-14
 - b. Through False Philosophies - Col 2:8
 - c. Through Questioning God's Word - Gen 3:1-5 (cf. Gen 2:16-17)
 - d. Through Tricking Christians To Compromise - Eph 6:11-12; I Jn 2:15-17

E. The Christian's Defense Against Satan

1. Be aware of his strategies - II Cor 2:11; Eph 6:1, 16
2. Be cautious concerning his power - Eph 6:12; Jude 9

3. Stay alert for his attacks - I Pet 5:8
4. Don't give him any opportunities - Eph 4:27
5. Put on the whole armor of God - Eph 6:10-18; II Cor 10:3-4
6. Rely on God's power - Eph 6:10; I Jn 4:4; Rom 8:37-39
7. Resist him in faith - Jas 4:7; I Pet 5:9; Eph 6:11, 13-14

F. Satan's Defeat And Judgments

1. His immediate defeat when he sinned: He lost his position - Ezek 28:12-17
2. His ultimate defeat was guaranteed in Eden - Gen 3:14-15
3. His ultimate defeat was accomplished on the cross - Heb 2:14-15
4. His ultimate defeat will be completed in the future - Rev 12:7-13; Rev 20
 - a. He will be banned from Heaven - Rev 12:7-13
 - b. He will be cast into the bottomless pit - Rev 20:1-3
 - c. He will be cast into the lake of fire for eternal punishment - Rev 20:7-10

4. FALLEN ANGELS (DEMONS)

A. The Origin And Nature Of Demons

- * The Bible does not say much specifically about the origin of demons. The most likely view is that they are fallen, sinful angels.
- * Some of the angels that sinned are being held in a state of confinement (Rev 9:14; II Pet 2:4), while others are actively involved in this world.

B. The Names And Titles Of Demons

1. Spirits - Mt 8:16
2. Deceitful (seducing) spirits - I Tim 4:1
3. Spirit of divination - Acts 16:16
4. Spirit of infirmity - Lk 13:11
5. Unclean spirits - Mt 10:1
6. Evil spirits - Lk 7:21
7. Dumb and deaf spirit; Foul spirit - Mk 9:25

C. Characteristics Of Demons

1. They are spirit beings - Eph 2:2; 6:12; Lk 24:39
 - * They are invisible and are not subject to normal physical laws.
2. They possess personality - Mk 5:10; Lk 4:34
3. They are highly intelligent - Mt 8:29

- * They possess knowledge and foreknowledge
- 4. They are depraved and cruel - Mt 10:1; Mk 1:27
- 5. They possess amazing strength - Lk 8:29
- 6. They are organized in a military structure - Eph 6:12
- 7. They are confirmed in their wickedness - Mt 25:41
 - * They have no hope of salvation.
- 8. They are limited. They are not all-powerful, and are subject to God's power - Lk 4:35-36

D. Demonic Activities

1. They promote idolatry - I Cor 10:19-20
2. They extend Satan's power - Eph 6:11-12
3. They can cause what appears to be mental disorders - Lk 9:39; Mk 5:15
4. They can inflict physical infirmities - Mt 9:32-33; Mk 9:25-26
5. They can impart superhuman strength - Mk 5:4
6. They seduce into immorality - I Tim 4:1-3
7. They can enter and control (possess) unbelieving humans - Mt 12:45
8. They can possess animals - Mk 5:13
9. They act as fortunetellers and prophets - Acts 16:16
10. They influence human government - Eph 6:12 Dan 10:13
11. They try to bring about jealousy, strife, etc. in believers - Jas 3:13-16
12. They deceive through miracles - Rev 16:14; Rev 13:12-15
13. They disseminate false doctrine - I Tim 4:1; I Jn 4:1-3
14. They may be used by God to carry out His purposes - I Sam 16:14; I Kings 22:22; II Cor 12:7

E. The Judgment Of Demons

- * They will be cast into the Lake of Fire - Mt 25:41