

Biblical Teaching on Angels

Origin	Angels were created as holy beings (Mark 8:38) by God (Col. 1:16) before the creation of the earth (Job 38:7) by fiat (Ps. 148:2, 5).	
Nature	Angels were created with the ability to fellowship and with personality expressed by intellect (1 Peter 1:12), emotion (Job 38:7), and will (Isa. 14:12-15), but they are never said to be in the image of God, as man is. They are localized beings (Dan. 9:21-23), immortal (Luke 20:36), and have limited knowledge (Matt. 24:36). They are normally invisible (Col. 1:16) but have appeared to people in the form of male beings (Gen. 18:1-8), sometimes very unusual men (Dan. 10:5-6), and at times with some sort of supernatural dazzle (Matt. 28:3) and as unusual living creatures in heaven (Rev. 4:6-8). Usually their appearance affects the human concerned to respond in fear and agitation (Luke 1:29).	
Spiritual Condition	Although all angels were created good, there are now two moral classifications: holy and elect (Mark 8:38; 1 Tim. 5:21) and evil and unclean (Luke 8:2; 11:24-26). They are aligned either with God (John 1:51) or with Satan (Matt. 25:41).	
Similarities With Man	Created by God, localized, accountable to God (John 16:11), limited in knowledge (Matt. 24:36).	
Differences From Man	Different order of being (Heb. 2:5-7), invisible, do not procreate (Matt. 22:28-30), greater in intelligence, strength, and swiftness (2 Peter 2:11), not subject to physical death.	
Classifications	Rulers, powers, world forces (Eph. 6:12), dominion (Eph. 1:21) thrones (Col. 1:16).	
Purpose	Fallen	Unfallen
	To promote Satan's program in opposing God (Rev. 12:7) by promoting rebellion (Gen. 3), idolatry (Lev. 17:7), false religions (1 John 4:1-4), and oppression of mankind.	To serve God in worship (Rev. 4:6-11), in ministry (Heb. 1:7), in being God's messengers (Ps. 103:20), to act in God's government (Dan. 10:13, 21), protecting God's people (Ps. 34:7), executing God's judgment (Gen. 19:1).
Relationship to Believers	Wage war (Eph. 6:10-18), accuse (Rev. 12:10), plant doubt (Gen. 3:1-3), tempt to sin (Eph. 2:1-3), persecute (Rev. 12:13), prevent service (1 Thess. 2:18), disturb the church (2 Cor. 2:10-11).	Reveal truth (Gal. 3:19), guide (Mt. 1:20-21); provide physical needs (1 King: 19:6), protect (Dan. 3:24-28), deliver (Acts 5:17-20), encourage (Acts 5:19-20), act in answering prayer (Dan. 9:20-24), accompany the dead (Luke 16:22).
Relationship to Christ on Earth	Satan tempted Christ (Mark 1:13), led people to betray and kill Him (Luke 22:3-4); Christ cast demons out and finally defeated them on the cross (Col. 2:15).	Announced the birth of Christ (Luke 1:26-38), guided Joseph to safety (Matt. 2:14), ministered to Christ (Matt. 4:11; Luke 22:43), announced his resurrection (Matt. 28:2-4), ascension and return (Acts 1:11).
Place of Habitation	Heavenly (spiritual) realms (Eph. 6:12), abyss (Rev. 9:1-11), people (Mark 9:14-29), the bonds of darkness (Jude 6).	In God's presence (Isa. 6:1-6), heavenly realms (Eph. 3:10)
Destiny	Defeated by Christ (Col. 2:15), cast into the abyss during Millennium (Rev. 20:1-2), cast into lake of fire as final punishment (Rev. 20:10).	To be in God's presence and Christ's presence in his kingdom (Rev. 21-22)
Specific Angels	Satan	Michael, Gabriel