

## ANGELS

May 5, 2024

I Cor. 6:3 – In speaking to believers, the Apostle Paul said, *Do you not know that we shall judge angels?* The word for “judge” in Greek can also mean rule/govern. In this context, given who angels are, the word “judge” does not mean to condemn. How can believers sit in judgment of “holy; elect”/faithful angels – who are sinless?

Some teach that believers will judge fallen angels. Nothing in Scripture teaches that believers will judge fallen angels. Consider: where is Satan in the Millennial Kingdom? Bound in the Abyss - deep gulf or chasm in the lowest parts of the earth used as the common receptacle of the dead and especially as the abode of demons (Rev. 20:1-3).

Scripture is not explicit as to when fallen angels are cast into the Lake of Fire, it is said to be their ultimate destination (Mat. 25:41). It seems most likely they participate in Satan's rebellion at the end of the Millennium — to be committed to the Lake of Fire with Satan thereafter.

Rev. 20:10 - *The devil, who deceived them, was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone where the beast and the false prophet are. And they will be tormented day and night forever and ever/.*

God will judge fallen angels: II Pet. 2:4 - *For if God did not spare the angels who sinned, but cast them down to hell and delivered them into chains of darkness, to be reserved for judgment; Jude 6 - *And the angels who did not keep their proper domain, but left their own abode, He has reserved in everlasting chains under darkness for the judgment of the great day;**

When God created the angels, they were all good as was the rest of creation (Gen. 1:31 - ... *everything God made was very good.*)

Satan rebelled (obviously through free will).

Angels are spiritual beings who have personalities that include emotions (Luke 2:13–14), intelligence (2 Corinthians 11:3, 14), and wills (2 Timothy 2:26 - *and that they may come to their senses and escape the snare of the devil, having been taken captive by him to do his will.*) Satan was an angel who was cast out of heaven along with many other angels who decided to follow him and *chose* to sin (2 Peter 2:4). The Bible speaks of demons who, by their own *choice*, “did not keep their positions of authority but abandoned their proper dwelling” (Jude v.6). Demons demonstrate their free will in several passages of Scripture. Legion chose a herd of pigs as their destination (Luke 8:32).

Those angels who did not choose to sin and follow Satan have become the “elect” angels (1 Timothy 5:21; confirmed in holiness. These angels are also referred to as “holy angels” (Mark 8:38) and “holy ones” (Psalms 89:5).

Those angels who did choose to sin in siding with Satan have become the “unclean spirits” (Mark 1:23) or demons. Rev. 12:4 - *His tail drew a third of the stars of heaven and threw them to the earth.*

“Elect” – being chosen. Believers are chosen and cannot lose their elect position (John 10:28; Rom. 8:38-39). And so, the elect angels cannot lose their elect position. BUT only humans can experience forgiveness, the new birth. The elect angels cannot experience forgiveness since they have never sinned. AND, Jesus died for humanity, not for angels. Secure in their standing

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before the Lord, elect angels cannot sin or go against the commands of God but will remain faithful to the Lord forever.

Worshipping and serving God are the main purposes of the elect angels (Rev. 7:11).

Elect angels are servants of God who seek to bring Him glory (Rev. 22:9).

God uses the elect angels to carry out His will and to provide ministry to believers (Heb. 1:14).

Elect angels have been a part of God’s plan in carrying out judgment (Gen. 19:13; Psa. 78:49; Rev. 14:17-20) and providing encouragement to God’s people (Acts 27:23).

I Pet. 1:12 – Angels are “curious about the gospel.”

Heb. 2:16 - *For indeed He does not give aid to angels, but He does give aid to (Jesus does “take on” – as in human flesh) the seed of Abraham.* Jesus died for mankind/humanity, NOT for angels. Jesus took on human flesh and came to save mankind from our sins. Angels might very well be fascinated by the truth that God laid down His life to save humans.

The holy angels live in the presence of God. WHY would they be interested in human salvation (Matt. 18:20; 22:30)? Believers in Jesus understand what it is like to be dead in sin and alienated from God (Eph. 2:1-3). Believers are recipients of God’s overwhelming grace and mercy. Believers are redeemed – purchased out of bondage to sin.

Angels do not know the sweetness of redemption. They have no experiential knowledge of grace and salvation. And yet, angels, over the course of human history, have been watching God’s redemptive work with humanity.

I Tim. 3:16 - *And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifested in the flesh, justified in the Spirit, seen by angels, preached among the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received up in glory.*

Angels are amazed by salvation and “peer intently” at salvation, longing to understand it. God the Son became man to redeem humanity. He did not become an angel to redeem the heavenly host. Angels cannot fully understand salvation as it is not for them!

In Exodus we read of God commanding that the cherubim on the mercy seat on the lid of the ark of the covenant were to have their wings spread upward, overshadowing the cover with their wings. The Cherubim are to face each other, looking toward the cover (Ex. 25:20; Num. 7:8-9; I Kings 8:7-8; Heb. 9:5). The mercy seat represents God’s throne. The mercy seat is where God’s presence dwelt and the blood of the atonement was offered for sin at Yom Kippur. The gold cherubim on the ark were placed as if gazing upon God’s redemptive purposes.

In I Peter, angels long to understand the JOY found in Jesus’ atonement for sin!

Consider/ponder the truth that angels long to look into things pertaining to our salvation! What a reminder to us of what a precious gift we have been given – the gift of salvation! May we always cherish the gift of salvation in light of it being such a wonderment to the angels.

Even as we EXPERIENCE salvation on a moment-to-moment basis, are we looking intently at it as wonderment to us? Are we marveling at God's overwhelming gift?