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The Truth About Angels



“Then I saw another angel flying in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach to those who dwell on the earth—to every nation, tribe, tongue, and people” ([Revelation 14:6](#)).



An Amazing Fact: According to polls, 81 percent of Americans believe in the existence of angels; 51 percent even believe they have been personally helped by one.

In many ways, Revelation chapter 14 is the pinnacle of last-day prophecy.

At the very heart of this thrilling passage, the Bible portrays three angels proclaiming a warning to the world before the coming of Jesus Christ. Indeed, angels are mentioned 76 times in Revelation—so, to rightly understand chapter 14, we must first understand something about these heavenly beings.

Throughout the Bible, angels are seen as coming to protect and

deliver people. One of the most dramatic examples of this is found in the book of Acts.

During the Passover, King Herod ordered the arrest of the apostle Peter in an attempt to crush the fledgling Christian church. “So ... he put him [Peter] in prison, and delivered him to four squads of soldiers [16 men] to keep him” (12:4). Clearly, the king didn’t want this persuasive preacher to escape! What happened next?

An angel of the Lord stood by him [Peter], and a light shone in the prison; and he struck Peter on the side and raised him up, saying, “Arise quickly!” And his chains fell off his hands (v. 7).

God’s angel then led Peter past all the guards and out of the jail (vv. 8–10). What a deliverance! The Bible is filled with such stories of good angels doing wonderful deeds to help God’s people.

However, Scripture also warns us that there are evil angels. The ringleader of these fallen angels is the power behind the beast power of Revelation: “Satan, who deceives the whole world” (Revelation 12:9). Yes—our world is Satan’s target. That’s why the Bible wants you to be informed about who he is and his malicious plans, which are being played out here on Earth.

What else does the Bible say about angels? Understanding their origins, and Satan’s in particular, will help you to better understand the battle between good and evil in Revelation—and in your life.





When you see a blank, look up the passage in your Bible and write in the missing word.

1. What are the good angels like?

Hebrews 1:6. When He again brings the firstborn into the world, He says: “Let all the angels of God _____ Him.”

Revelation 7:11. All the angels stood around the throne ... and fell on their faces before the throne and _____ God.

ANSWER: The good angels in heaven fervently worship God. The Bible depicts them as praising and even singing before the Lord in heaven (Job 38:7; Luke 2:13, 14; Revelation 7:11, 12). These are loyal beings who fully trust and serve God, their Creator, with a deep sense of awe, respect, and love.

2. What do the good angels do on the earth?

Psalm 34:7. The angel of the LORD _____ all around those who fear Him, and delivers them.

Daniel 9:22. And he informed me, and talked with me, and said, “O Daniel, I have now come forth to give you skill to _____.”

Hebrews 1:14. Are they not all ministering spirits sent forth to _____ for those who will inherit salvation?

ANSWER: God sends good angels to protect, support, and guide His people on the earth; this includes giving them messages of hope, such as when the angel announced the birth of the Messiah (Luke 2:10–12). From Genesis to Revelation, good angels are depicted as being directly involved with God’s people.

3. Which angel turned against God and why?

Isaiah 14:12–14. *How you are fallen from heaven, O _____, son of the morning! ... You have said in your heart: “I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God; ... I will be like the Most High.”*

Ezekiel 28:17. *Your heart was lifted up because of your beauty; you _____ your wisdom for the sake of your splendor.*

ANSWER: Lucifer is one of the most powerful and beautiful of God’s created beings. He was once the highest angel in heaven and likely led the angelic choir (Ezekiel 28:13, 14). But he later allowed his God-given beauty to fill him with pride. (See “Satan Symbolized by the Kings of Tyre and Babylon” at the end of this lesson.)

4. Did God create Lucifer to be a devil?

Ezekiel 28:15. *You were _____ in your ways from the day you were created, till iniquity was found in you.*

ANSWER: No, God did not make a devil! Everything God makes is good (James 1:17). Instead, God made a perfect angel who, of his own free will, chose to go his own way; he desires to serve himself above all others. It may be hard to imagine, but if you had known Lucifer before his fall, you would have loved him. The Bible doesn’t say for how long, but Lucifer may have served God joyfully for eons before the seeds of pride and resentment germinated in his heart. Eventually, he turned against God and sought to hijack for himself the worship that the Creator alone deserves.

Why didn’t God stop Lucifer from rebelling? “God is love” (1 John 4:8), and genuine love gives freedom of choice. Moreover, if God had destroyed Lucifer just as soon as he began spreading lies about God’s kingdom, the universe’s other intelligent creatures may have experienced doubt. They might have thought, “*Perhaps Lucifer was right, and that’s why God killed him.*” Therefore, to forever settle the





question about God’s character and His kingdom of self-sacrificing love, Lucifer was permitted to demonstrate his self-centered government of sin.

Ultimately, God does not want His creatures to obey Him out of a fear that He will destroy them. Rather, He wants us to obey Him from love (John 14:15). The Lord could have made all His creatures like robots who would always obey, but a robot cannot truly love in return. Genuine love must be freely given, and such freedom involves the risk of someone going astray—just as Lucifer did.

5. How many angels were convinced by Lucifer’s deceptions?

Revelation 12:4. *His tail drew a _____ of the stars of heaven and threw them to the earth.*

ANSWER: As seen in other Bible passages (Revelation 1:20; 12:9), the word “stars” here symbolizes heavenly messengers. So cunning was Satan that he deceived a third of the angels in heaven into following him in his rebellion against God. Now called “devils” or “demons,” these fallen angels carry out Satan’s plans, such as possessing people (Matthew 8:28–34) and performing counterfeit miracles (Revelation 13:13, 14; 16:14).

6. What happened as a result of Lucifer’s deceptions in heaven?

Revelation 12:7, 8. *And _____ broke out in heaven: Michael and his angels fought with the dragon; and the dragon and his angels fought, but they did not prevail.*

Revelation 12:9. *He was cast to the earth, and his _____ were cast out with him.*

ANSWER: The “dragon and his angels” refers to Satan and his demons. (See Revelation 20:2.) The Bible says there was a “war” in heaven. Lucifer and his angels did not prevail in that conflict. As a result, they were evicted and subsequently cast to the earth—where Satan then attempted to convince humans to obey him instead of God.

7. What methods does Satan use in his war against God?

Mark 1:13. He [Jesus] was there in the wilderness forty days,
_____ by Satan.

John 8:44. He [Satan] was a _____ from the beginning. ... He is a
_____ and the father of it.

Revelation 12:10. The _____ of our brethren, who _____
them before our God day and night, has been cast down.

Revelation 16:14. They are spirits of demons, performing _____.

ANSWER: In the cosmic battle between good and evil, Satan wields murder, deceptions, temptations, accusations, lies, and signs (miracles) as his weapons. For instance, he appeared as a talking serpent and lied to Eve in the garden, insinuating that she couldn't trust God (Genesis 3:1-5). While God relies only on truth and love to rescue fallen humanity, Satan continues to murder and deceive, often mixing truth with the false, to serve his selfish ends. (See "Expect the Unexpected" at the end of this lesson.)

8. When is Satan most dangerous?

2 Corinthians 11:14. Satan himself transforms himself into an _____
of light.

Matthew 4:5, 6. The devil ... said to Him, "If You are the Son of God,
throw Yourself down. For it is _____: 'He shall give His angels
charge over you.'"



ANSWER: In the book of 2 Samuel, the King David’s handsome son, Absalom, is found rebelling against his father’s kingdom: “Whenever anyone came near to bow down to him, ... he [Absalom] would put out his hand and take him and kiss him. In this manner Absalom acted toward all Israel who came to the king for judgment. So Absalom stole the hearts of the men of Israel” (15:5, 6). Absalom pretended to show an interest in people’s welfare by appearing as a man of peace and love; but it was all done to deceive them so he could take power. So it is with Satan. The devil is the most dangerous when he poses as a beautiful, spiritual being who acts as though he wants what is best for others—but the fact is, he is only serving his own ambitions and wants to destroy God’s people.

The devil is also an expert at misquoting the Bible for the purpose of deceiving people. He even misused Scripture when he tempted Jesus in an attempt to appear holy and wise. He will do the same to God’s people in the last days. (See “A Brilliant Angel” at the end of this lesson.)





9. What animals in the Bible are used to symbolize Satan?

1 Peter 5:8. *Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring _____, seeking whom he may devour.*

Revelation 12:9. *The great _____ was cast out, that _____ of old, called the Devil and Satan.*

ANSWER: Both lions and snakes use stealth and diversion to capture their prey; they spring suddenly upon their victims and are ruthless and indifferent to suffering. Likewise, Satan seeks to viciously and callously destroy people through his endless onslaught of deceptions and temptations. But the devil also shows his true colors when he fails to deceive. He is described as a bloodthirsty dragon who persecutes (Revelation 12:13) and as a lion whose roar intimidates and threatens God's people.

10. After his eviction from heaven, upon whom did the devil direct his fury?

Revelation 12:17. *The dragon was enraged with the woman, and he went to make war with the rest of her _____, who keep the commandments of God and have the testimony of Jesus Christ.*

Zechariah 3:1. *He showed me Joshua the high priest standing before the Angel of the LORD, and Satan standing at his right hand to _____ him.*

ANSWER: The “woman” in Revelation 12:17 represents God's church—that is, God's people on Earth. (See 2 Corinthians 11:2; Ephesians 5:23–27.) Because Satan is not able to overpower God and can no longer persecute Christ directly, he now focuses his anger against humanity—but especially God's people, those who love God, obey His commandments, and believe in Jesus as their Lord. (See also Genesis 3:1; Job 2:7; Revelation 12:12.) Such people, like the good angels we learned about earlier, fervently worship God and serve as His ministers of light in this dark world (1 Peter 2:9).

11. How can people resist Satan’s deceptions and temptations?

Matthew 4:10. Jesus said to him, “Away with you, Satan! For it is _____, ‘You shall worship the LORD your God, and Him only you shall serve.’”

Matthew 26:41. Watch and _____, lest you enter into temptation. The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.



James 4:7, 8. Therefore _____ to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you. Draw near to God and He will draw near to you.

Ephesians 6:17. Take the helmet of salvation, and the _____ of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

ANSWER: The same tools Jesus used to fight off the devil’s temptations—knowledge of God’s Word, obeying God’s commandments, and prayer—are available to us today. Our only safety from Satan’s deceptions is in storing God’s Word in our

minds; this will help keep us from sin, “for the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword” (Hebrews 4:12). We need to be aware of Satan’s existence—but with Jesus, we do not need to fear him. (See Romans 8:31; Isaiah 41:10; 1 John 4:4.)

12. What is Satan’s fate according to Bible prophecy?

Isaiah 14:15. You shall be brought down to Sheol [hell], to the lowest depths of the _____.

Matthew 25:41. Depart from Me, you cursed, into the everlasting _____ prepared for the devil and his angels.

Ezekiel 28:19. You have become a horror, and shall be no more _____.

ANSWER: The Bible is clear: Satan and his angels will ultimately lose their war and will be destroyed forever. Never again will the universe suffer from their evil lies and actions.

13. How does God feel about the destruction of Satan, his angels, and the wicked?

Ezekiel 33:11. *“As I live,” says the Lord God, “I have no _____ in the death of the wicked, but that the wicked _____ from his way and live. _____, _____ from your evil ways! For why should you die?”*

ANSWER: Our loving God created Lucifer and the other fallen angels as free intelligent creatures. He made them to experience the joy that comes with self-sacrificing love. That’s why God will feel such sorrow at their destruction. The Bible even calls this God’s “unusual act” because it is foreign to His loving nature (Isaiah 28:21).

Yet Satan and his angels will refuse to repent till the very end of time (Revelation 20:7–9). If given the opportunity to live forever, they would only continue to bring chaos, pain, and destruction to God’s cosmos. Thus, God will bring this evil to a total end in order to secure a safe, happy universe for His people. God’s kingdom of love and self-sacrifice is superior to Satan’s kingdom of pride and selfishness; it deeply grieves God that so many in our world has joined Satan in rebellion.

14. Do you wish to resist Satan’s deceptions and join the good angels in God’s kingdom of love?

Answer: _____





Lesson 1 Supplemental Material

Satan Symbolized by the Kings of Tyre and Babylon

In Isaiah 14:4–21 and Ezekiel 28:11–19, the Bible uses the kings of Babylon and Tyre to symbolize Satan. Many biblical scholars agree on this point, and it's easy to see why. In both cases, we know that the symbolism goes beyond earthly kings because God's description of the kings could not apply to a human. Notice the ways that Lucifer, now called Satan, is described in these passages:

- Fell from heaven (Isaiah 14:12)
- Was full of wisdom and perfect in beauty (Ezekiel 28:12)
- Had been in Eden (v. 13)
- Every precious stone was his covering (v. 13)
- Was the anointed cherub who covers (v. 14)
- Was upon the holy mountain of God (v. 14)
- Was perfect in his ways (v. 15)

It was ultimately the devil working behind the kings of Babylon and Tyre. Because most of these kings exhibited the same character and will suffer the same destruction as Satan in the end, God used them to represent the devil. The Bible also records other references to Lucifer—Job 1:6–2:7; Zechariah 3:1, 2; Luke 4:5, 6; 10:18; John 8:44; 2 Peter 2:4; 1 John 3:8; Jude 1:6; Revelation 12:7–9—but without Ezekiel 28 and Isaiah 14, we would not have the complete picture.

Expect the Unexpected

Many people expect Satan to appear openly as God's enemy in the end times; however, this is not what will happen according to the Bible. While Satan is God's enemy, his approach will be to pretend to be righteous (Matthew 24:24). He can appear as a glorious, angelic being (2 Corinthians 11:14), and he will seek the worship of humans (Revelation 13:4, 12). Scripture is clear that his false front will be so convincing that "all the world" will wonder after him (v. 3).

Talk about a tragedy! Satan will be so effective at impersonating Christ that almost the entire world will follow him, thinking they are following Jesus. Will you be deceived? Not if you heed the biblical warnings presented in these lessons.

A Brilliant Angel

Satan is delighted when people portray him as an ugly, red, bat-winged creature—or as a beast with split hooves and a long, pointed tail carrying a pitchfork and stoking the fires of hell. Such false concepts come from Greek and other pagan mythology, not from the Bible! Instead, the Bible describes Satan as a brilliant, highly attractive angel with an uncanny ability to communicate—and to deceive. He is also acquainted with Scripture (Matthew 4:5, 6). As a self-proclaimed enemy of God and our powerful adversary, the devil is maximizing his use of these attributes and skills to destroy us.

These lessons will help you understand his plans and learn how to thwart them. The key is to place your life in the protective care of your mighty Savior and pray earnestly for His guidance. Do this, by faith in Jesus and trust in His power to save, and Satan can never destroy you.



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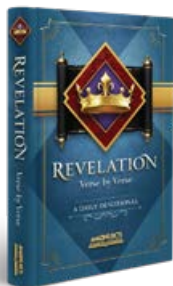
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Then I saw another angel flying in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach to those who dwell on the earth—to every nation, tribe, tongue, and people—saying with a loud voice, “Fear God and give glory to Him, for the hour of His judgment has come; and worship Him who made heaven and earth, the sea and springs of water.”

And another angel followed, saying, “Babylon is fallen, is fallen, that great city, because she has made all nations drink of the wine of the wrath of her fornication.”

Then a third angel followed them, saying with a loud voice, “If anyone worships the beast and his image, and receives his mark on his forehead or on his hand, he himself shall also drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is poured out full strength into the cup of His indignation. He shall be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels and in the presence of the Lamb. And the smoke of their torment ascends forever and ever; and they have no rest day or night, who worship the beast and his image, and whoever receives the mark of his name.” Here is the patience of the saints; here are those who keep the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus.

Revelation 14:6–12

