



## B. Seraphims

1. Their number
  - a. There were at least two in Isaiah's vision (Isaiah 6:1-7).
  - b. There were four in John's vision of heaven (Revelation 4:1-11). This number was constant throughout the book of Revelation (Revelation 5:6, 8, 14; Revelation 6:1-7; Revelation 7:11; Revelation 14:3; Revelation 15:7; Revelation 19:4).
2. Their appearance
  - a. Their uniqueness (Revelation 4:7)
    - (1) The first was like a lion.
    - (2) The second was like a calf.
    - (3) The third had a face as a man.
    - (4) The fourth was like a flying eagle.
  - b. Their resemblance
    - (1) They have six wings (Isaiah 6:2; Revelation 4:8).
      - a) With two they cover their faces
      - b) With two they cover their feet
      - c) With two they fly (Isaiah 6:6)
    - (2) They have hands (Isaiah 6:6).
    - (3) They are full of eyes.
      - a) Before and behind (Revelation 4:6)
      - b) Within (Revelation 4:8)
3. Their tasks
  - a. They stand above or around the throne (Isaiah 6:1-2; Revelation 4:4-6; Revelation 5:6). Note: There were only seats round about the throne for the four and twenty elders (Revelation 4:4).
  - b. They cry to one another of the Lord's holiness (Isaiah 6:3; Revelation 4:8-11).
  - c. They Amen when the Lamb is worshipped (Revelation 5:14; Revelation 19:4).
  - d. They were each responsible for showing John the opening of the first four seals (Revelation 6:1, 3, 5, 7).
  - e. One of the four was, in John's vision of the future, responsible for giving the seven angels the vials of God's wrath (Revelation 15:7).

## C. Angels

1. Their number
  - a. The references
    - (1) "The chariots of God are twenty thousand, even thousands of angels" (Psalm 68:17)
    - (2) "Thinkest thou that I cannot now pray to my Father, and he shall presently give me more than twelve legions of angels?" (Matthew 26:53); Note: This is equivalent to more than 72,000.
    - (3) "But ye are come...to an innumerable company of angels" (Hebrews 12:22)



- (4) “I heard the voice of many angels round about the throne and the beasts and elders: and the number of them was ten thousand times ten thousand, and thousands of thousands;” (Revelation 5:11; see also Daniel 7:10)
- b. Thoughts
  - (1) The common thought is that there is an innumerable amount of angels because of the statement in Hebrews 12:22.
  - (2) However, it would seem that the inability to number them is based upon man’s perspective rather than God’s perspective.
  - (3) After all, according to Revelation 12:4 “the third part of the stars of heaven” are drawn and cast to the earth. It is impossible to have a third part of something that is innumerable.
2. Their orders/breakdown
  - a. The angel of the Lord—Believe it or not, a large number of the references in scripture to an angel are actually a reference to the Lord Jesus Christ who is indeed not an angel, but is above the angels.
  - b. Michael
    - (1) He is “the archangel” (Jude 1:9; 1 Thessalonians 4:16).
      - a) The term *arch* means chief or principal and suggests structure.
      - b) As such, he is apparently head of the angels under the Lord (Revelation 12:7).
    - (2) He is identified as “one of the chief princes” (Daniel 10:13).
      - a) He is specifically identified as Israel’s prince (Daniel 10:21; Daniel 12:1).
      - b) Yet, he is superior to other princes (Daniel 10:13).
    - (3) He is the Devil’s foe (Daniel 10:21; Daniel 12:1; Jude 1:9; Revelation 12:7).
  - c. Angels (good/evil)
    - (1) Good angels
      - a) They are identified as “his [the Lord’s or Michael’s] angels” (Psalm 91:11; Psalm 103:20; Psalm 148:2; Matthew 13:41; Matthew 16:27; Matthew 24:31; Revelation 3:5; Revelation 12:7). See also Luke 12:8-9.
      - b) They are identified as “holy angels” (Matthew 25:31; Mark 8:38; Luke 9:26; Acts 10:22; Revelation 14:10).
      - c) They are identified by their association with heaven.
        - i) “The angels of God in heaven” (Matthew 22:30)
        - ii) “The angels of heaven” (Matthew 24:36)
        - iii) “The angels which are in heaven” (Mark 12:25; Mark 13:32)
        - iv) “With the angel a multitude of the heavenly host” (Luke 2:13) with “as the angels were gone away from them into heaven” (Luke 2:15)
      - d) They are identified as “elect angels” (1 Timothy 5:21).



- (2) Evil angels (see Psalm 78:49)
  - a) The initial rebellion
    - i) Lucifer had a throne and dominion on the earth prior to the fall of Adam and Eve.
    - ii) Since Adam was the first man (1 Corinthians 15:45), it stands to reason that Lucifer ruled over spiritual beings.
    - iii) This seems to be confirmed by the fact that the Lord prepared “everlasting fire...for the devil and HIS angels” (Matthew 25:41).
    - iv) These angels may very well be the ones that appeared with Satan before God in the book of Job (Job 1:6; Job 2:1).
  - b) The flood
    - i) Historically, there were angels that sinned (2 Peter 2:4; Jude 1:6-7; 1 Peter 3:20).
      - (a) They kept not their first estate (2 Peter 2:4; Jude 1:6).
      - (b) They left their own habitation (2 Peter 2:4; Jude 1:6).
      - (c) Their sin apparently had to do with fornication and going after strange flesh (Jude 1:7).
      - (d) This sin occurred in Noah’s days (1 Peter 3:20).
      - (e) These are the “sons of God” that went in unto the daughters of men and had giants for offspring (Genesis 6:1-13).
    - ii) They were cast down to hell (1 Peter 3:19; 2 Peter 2:4; Jude 1:6).
      - (a) There, they are imprisoned in chains of darkness.
      - (b) They are reserved unto judgment.
  - c) The future rebellion (Revelation 12:4, 7-9)
    - i) Whether or not this is a new set of angels or the old set reintroduced I cannot tell.
    - ii) What is clear is that one-third of the angels will, in the future, be drawn away by the Devil (Revelation 12:4).
    - iii) In their rebellion, they will fight alongside the Devil against Michael and his angels (Revelation 12:7).
    - iv) In the end, they will be cast out of heaven alongside of the Devil and will be cast into the earth (Revelation 12:8-9).
    - v) It is quite possible that at this time there will be a repeat of what took place prior to the flood. After all, the two historical examples of the last days are that of the days of Noah and the days of Lot. In both cases, there was an attempt or success in interrelations between humans and angels.



3. Their nature/appearance
  - a. They are spirits (Psalm 104:4; Hebrews 1:7, 14), but always appear as males (Genesis 19:1-23; Luke 24:4; Acts 1:10).
  - b. They are immortal (Luke 20:36).
  - c. They are known for their wisdom (2 Samuel 14:20), but are not omniscient (1 Peter 1:12; Matthew 24:36).
  - d. Some supposed them to be sexless because of Matthew 22:30, yet they always appear on earth as men capable of having relations.
  - e. They are mighty (Psalm 103:20; 2 Thessalonians 1:7) being greater in power than man (2 Peter 2:11), but not almighty (1 Peter 3:22).
4. Their tasks
  - a. General
    - (1) Before God—The basic responsibility of the angels in heaven is to praise and worship God (Psalm 148:2). This involves their obedience of His commands (Psalm 103:20). In fact, there are multiple passages that indicate the angels stood before God awaiting a task (Luke 1:19; see Zechariah 3:7).
    - (2) Before man—The basic underlying premise of the angels' work is found in Hebrews 1:14 where the scripture states, "Are they not all ministering spirits, sent forth to minister for them who shall be heirs of salvation?"
  - b. Specific
    - (1) Angels accompanied the Lord on His visit to Abraham and went to get Lot and his family out of Sodom (Genesis 19:1-15).
    - (2) Angels met Jacob and ministered to him on his way to meet Esau (Genesis 32:1-2).
    - (3) Angels were involved in the giving of the Old Testament Law (Deuteronomy 33:2; Psalm 68:17; Acts 7:53; Galatians 3:19; Hebrews 2:2).
    - (4) Angels announced the birth of the Saviour (Luke 2:9-15).
    - (5) Angels ministered to the Lord Jesus after His time of temptation with the Devil (Psalm 91:11; Matthew 4:6, 11; Mark 1:13).
    - (6) An angel strengthened the Lord in Gethesmane (Luke 22:43).
    - (7) Angels informed those seeking for Christ that He had risen from the dead (Luke 24:4-7).
    - (8) Angels informed the saints of Christ's intentions to return again after His ascension (Acts 1:10-11).
    - (9) Angels will play a vital role in Daniel's Seventieth Week (Revelation 7:1-3; Revelation 8:1-13; Revelation 9:1-15; Revelation 10:1-11; Revelation 11:15; Revelation 14:6-10, 15-19; Revelation 15:1-8; Revelation 16:1-21; Revelation 17:1; Revelation 18:1, 21; Revelation 19:17).
    - (10) Angels will be involved in the Lord's second coming (Matthew 16:27; Matthew 25:31; Mark 8:38; 2 Thessalonians 1:7).
      - a) They will gather the elect (Matthew 24:31; Mark 13:27).
      - b) They will serve as reapers, severing the wicked from the just (Matthew 13:39-42, 49-50).



#### D. Spirits

1. Although angels are identified as ministering spirits, these spirits are not to be confused with angels. Angels always appeared in male bodies, but bodies specifically related to the angel itself. These spirits, on the other hand, possess the bodies of others.
2. The spirits took up their dwelling place in the bodies of:
  - a. Men (Matthew 4:24; Matthew 8:16, 28, 33; Matthew 9:32; Matthew 12:22; Mark 1:32; Mark 5:15-16, 18; Luke 8:36; Acts 8:7; Acts 16:16)
  - b. Beasts (Matthew 8:30-32; Mark 5:11-13; Luke 8:32-33)
3. That spirits and devils are one and the same can be seen from several verses, but Matthew 8:16 should suffice to prove it.
4. The spirits see bodies as houses (Matthew 12:43-45).
  - a. When one departs from a man, it seeks another dwelling place (Matthew 12:43; Luke 11:24).
  - b. If it find none, it returns with seven other spirits more wicked than itself (Matthew 12:44-45; Luke 11:24-26).
5. The time of the Lord's earthly ministry and the coming Tribulation are specifically noted for elevated spirit or devil activity (Matthew 7:22; Revelation 16:13-14; Revelation 18:2). At the same time, it is thought that the familiar spirits of the Old Testament (Leviticus 19:31; Leviticus 20:6, 27; Deuteronomy 18:11; 1 Samuel 28:3, 7-9; 2 Kings 21:6; 2 Kings 23:24; 1 Chronicles 10:13; 2 Chronicles 33:6; Isaiah 8:19; Isaiah 19:3; Isaiah 29:4) are the spirits and devils of the New Testament.
6. The devils or spirits maintain their own personality (Mark 5:2-13) and possess superior intellect (Mark 1:23-26).
7. The fact that these spirits work at the bidding of Satan is unveiled in Satan's title as "the prince of the devils" (Mark 3:22).
8. Distinctions of spirits
  - a. Evil spirits
    - (1) Their origin
      - a) Can be from the LORD (1 Samuel 16:14)
      - b) Obviously are connected to the Devil
    - (2) Their dwelling
      - a) Came upon man (1 Samuel 16:16; 1 Samuel 18:10; 1 Samuel 19:9)
      - b) Dwelt in man (Acts 19:12-16)
    - (3) Their work
      - a) Troubled the man upon whom or in whom it was (1 Samuel 16:14-15)
      - b) Seemed to bring harm to those around (1 Samuel 18:10-11; 1 Samuel 19:9-10; Acts 19:13-16)
  - b. Unclean spirits
    - (1) Their dwelling—dwelt in man (Matthew 12:43)
    - (2) Their work
      - a) They spoke the truth (Mark 1:23-24; Mark 3:11).



- b) They caused bodily harm to those they inhabited
  - i) Tearing (Mark 1:26)
  - ii) Plagues (Mark 3:10-11)
  - iii) Abusive strength (Mark 5:3)
  - iv) Cutting himself (Mark 5:5)
  - v) Ran a herd violently down into the sea (Mark 5:13)
  - vi) Vexed men (Luke 6:17-18; Acts 5:16)
  - vii) Threw a man down and tore him (Luke 9:42)
- c) They often cried aloud (Acts 8:7)
- c. Foul spirits
  - (1) Their dwelling—dwelt in man (Mark 9:25)
  - (2) Their work
    - a) Seems to cause a handicap in the person it indwells
      - i) Inability to hear
      - ii) Inability to speak
    - b) Seems as though the spirit itself had a problem
      - i) A dumb spirit (Mark 9:17)
      - ii) A dumb and deaf spirit (Mark 9:25)
- d. Seducing spirits
  - (1) Their operation—“the latter times” (1 Timothy 4:1)
  - (2) Their work—the spread of their “doctrines” (1 Timothy 4:1)
- 9. Conditions where spirits thrive
  - a. Darkness (Revelation 18:1)
    - (1) Darkness blinds from the truth (John 12:35; 1 John 2:11).
    - (2) Darkness is a cloak for sin (John 3:19).
  - b. Sin (Revelation 18:3)
  - c. Wealth (Revelation 18:3)
    - (1) Love of money is the root of all evil (1 Timothy 6:10).
    - (2) Physical wealth often corrupts spiritual wealth (Psalm 49:6-9; Revelation 18:11-13).
  - d. Ungodly sound
    - (1) Ungodly noises (Mark 5:5)
    - (2) The absence of godly music (1 Samuel 16:15-23)
  - e. Empty religion
    - (1) Devils have religion (James 2:19).
    - (2) They enjoy clean empty vessels (Matthew 12:43-45).
  - f. Death or mutilation (Matthew 8:28; Matthew 17:15)
  - g. Nakedness (Luke 8:27 with Mark 5:15)
  - h. Water (Matthew 12:43; Matthew 17:15)
  - i. Fire (Matthew 17:15)