

Oh, Little Town of Bethlehem

Part Two

December 27, 2017

1 Micah 5:2

2 *But thou, Bethlehem Ephratah, though thou be little among the thousands of Judah, yet*
3 *out of thee shall he come forth unto me that is to be ruler in Israel; whose goings forth*
4 *have been from of old, from everlasting.*

5

6 Tonight let's discuss the angels in the Christmas story. Here is how Luke tells the story:

7

8 Luke 2:8-20

9 **And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch**
10 **over their flock by night. [9] And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the**
11 **glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid. [10] And the**
12 **angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy,**
13 **which shall be to all people. [11] For unto you is born this day in the city of David a**
14 **Saviour, which is Christ the Lord. [12] And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall**
15 **find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger. [13] And suddenly**
16 **there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying,**
17 **[14] Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men. [15]**
18 **And it came to pass, as the angels were gone away from them into heaven, the**
19 **shepherds said one to another, Let us now go even unto Bethlehem, and see this**
20 **thing which is come to pass, which the Lord hath made known unto us. [16] And**
21 **they came with haste, and found Mary, and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger.**
22 **[17] And when they had seen it, they made known abroad the saying which was told**
23 **them concerning this child. [18] And all they that heard it wondered at those things**
24 **which were told them by the shepherds. [19] But Mary kept all these things, and**
25 **pondered them in her heart. [20] And the shepherds returned, glorifying and**
26 **praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen, as it was told unto**
27 **them.**

28

29

ANGELOLOGY

30

31 Scriptures have much to say about angels. That's good because we humans like to
32 speculate, often about things we know so little about. As a result there are a lot of myths
33 about angels. Books have been written, TV shows have been produced, and, frankly,
34 many sermons preached concerning angels that little or no reality in Scripture.

35 Tonight, let's consider these aspects of Angelology:

- 1 ■ The origin, nature, fall and classification of angels
- 2 ■ The work and destiny of angels

4 THE ORIGIN OF ANGELS

5
6 Unlike God, angels have not always existed. They are created beings:

7
8 Neh. 9:6

9 **Thou, even thou, art Lord alone; thou hast made heaven, the heaven of heavens,**
10 **with all their host, the earth, and all things that are therein, the seas, and all that is**
11 **therein, and thou preservest them all; and the host of heaven worshippeth thee.**

12
13 Psalm 148:2

14 **Praise ye him, all his angels: praise ye him, all his hosts. [5] Let them praise**
15 **the name of the Lord: for he commanded, and they were created.**

16
17 Col. 1:16

18 **For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth,**
19 **visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or**
20 **powers: all things were created by him, and for him:**

21
22 We do not know the exact time of their creation but it would be reasonable to assume that
23 it occurred in connection with the creation of the heavens (Genesis 1:1). According to
24 Job 38:4-7: **Where wast thou when I laid the foundations of the earth? declare, if**
25 **thou hast understanding. [5] Who hath laid the measures thereof, if thou knowest?**
26 **or who hath stretched the line upon it? [6] Whereupon are the foundations thereof**
27 **fastened? or who laid the corner stone thereof; [7] When the morning stars sang**
28 **together, and all the sons of God shouted for joy?**

29
30 How many angels are there? We do not know. The only reference we have is that
31 there are a great number of them:

32
33 Daniel 7:10

34 **A fiery stream issued and came forth from before him: thousand thousands**
35 **ministered unto him, and ten thousand times ten thousand stood before him: the**
36 **judgment was set, and the books were opened.**

37
38 10,000 x 10,000 would be 100 million!

39
40 Matthew 26:53

1 **Thinkest thou that I cannot now pray to my Father, and he shall presently give**
2 **me more than twelve legions of angels?**

3
4 A “legion” in the Roman army was 12,000 soldiers. Jesus was saying that with just His
5 word, He would be surrounded by over 70,000 angels.

6
7 Hebrews 12:22

8 **But ye are come unto mount Sion, and unto the city of the living God, the**
9 **heavenly Jerusalem, and to an innumerable company of angels,**

10
11 Well, there you are: more angels than you can imagine!

12 WHAT ANGELS ARE LIKE

13
14
15 1. Angels are not glorified human beings.

16
17 While Matthew 22:30 says we shall be “like” angels, it does not say we shall “be” angels.
18 In the coming age, believers will judge angels: 1 Cor. 6:3 **Know ye not that we shall**
19 **judge angels? how much more things that pertain to this life?** (This was the
20 scriptural restriction on Christians taking other Christians to court.)

21
22
23 2. Angels are not created like human beings. Hebrews 1:14 **Are they not all**
24 **ministering spirits, sent forth to minister for them who shall be heirs of salvation?**

25
26 However, scripture is filled with instances where angels revealed themselves in bodily
27 form. Judges 2:1 **And an angel of the Lord came up from Gilgal to Bochim, and**
28 **said, I made you to go up out of Egypt, and have brought you unto the land which I**
29 **sware unto your fathers; and I said, I will never break my covenant with you.**
30 Matthew 1:20 **But while he thought on these things, behold, the angel of the Lord**
31 **appeared unto him in a dream, saying, Joseph, thou son of David, fear not to take**
32 **unto thee Mary thy wife: for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Ghost.**

33
34 I could have listed many other verses here as well.

35
36 3. What is the gender of angels? Since they are not human, that’s virtually a moot
37 point. Theologians would tell you that *angels are a company and not a race*. That’s
38 based on such scriptures as: Hebrews 12:22 **But ye are come unto mount Sion, and**
39 **unto the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to an innumerable**
40 **company of angels, and Luke 20:34-36: And Jesus answering said unto them, The**

1 **children of this world marry, and are given in marriage: [35] But they which shall**
2 **be accounted worthy to obtain that world, and the resurrection from the dead,**
3 **neither marry, nor are given in marriage: [36] Neither can they die any more: for**
4 **they are equal unto the angels; and are the children of God, being the children of the**
5 **resurrection.**

6
7 The word “angel” in Scripture is always in the masculine gender; but this is also the
8 gender of beings in whom there is not sexual distinction.

9
10 God has made no provision for salvation of fallen angels. Satan, a fallen angel, therefore
11 has no way of salvation.

12
13 4. Angels are greater than humans in knowledge, but they are not omniscient (all-
14 knowing, as is God).

15
16 Matthew 24:36

17 **But of that day and hour knoweth no man, no, not the angels of heaven, but my**
18 **Father only.**

19
20 5. They are stronger than human beings, but they are not omnipotent (all-powerful).

21
22 Psalm 103:20

23 **Bless the Lord, ye his angels, that excel in strength, that do his commandments,**
24 **hearkening unto the voice of his word.**

25
26 2 Peter 2:11

27 **Whereas angels, which are greater in power and might, bring not railing**
28 **accusation against them before the Lord.**

29
30 There are numerous examples in Scripture of the power of the angels:

- 31
32 ■ freeing the apostles in prison Acts 5:19

33 **But the angel of the Lord by night opened the prison doors, and brought them**
34 **forth,**

35 Acts 12:7

36 **And, behold, the angel of the Lord came upon him, and a light shined in the**
37 **prison: and he smote Peter on the side, and raised him up, saying, Arise up quickly.**
38 **And his chains fell off from his hands.**

- 39 ■ rolling the stone away from Jesus’ tomb

40 Matthew 28:2

1 **And, behold, there was a great earthquake: for the angel of the Lord descended**
2 **from heaven, and came and rolled back the stone from the door, and sat upon it.**

3
4 One commentator has observed: "A wheel of granite, eight feet in diameter and one foot
5 thick, rolling in a groove, would weigh more than four tons."
6

7 **THE REVOLUTION AND FALL OF THE ANGELS**

8
9 It is at this point in our study that we look into the problem of the origin of evil. There is
10 every reason to believe that the angels were created without evil or sin. In Genesis 1 we
11 are informed seven times that everything God made was good.
12

13 We learn in the little book of Jude that the angels decided to revolt against God's rule.
14 Certainly at this time sin entered creation. Jude 1:6 **And the angels which kept not**
15 **their first estate, but left their own habitation, he hath reserved in everlasting chains**
16 **under darkness unto the judgment of the great day.** Satan (Lucifer, as he was
17 known) was doubtless the leader in the attack. Isaiah 14:12 **How art thou fallen from**
18 **heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! how art thou cut down to the ground, which**
19 **didst weaken the nations!**

20
21 Now the question arises, when did this catastrophe happen? Certainly before the sin of
22 Adam and Eve. I personally believe it happened somewhere between Genesis 1:1 and 2,
23 but it cannot be proven, only surmised.
24

25 Why did it happen? How could such beings fall? God obviously blessed the angels
26 with a gift He gave to us: namely, free will. Apparently Lucifer convinced a huge
27 number of the angels (up to one-third, we believe) that there was great power, wealth,
28 prestige to be had by revolting against God.
29

30 Ezekiel 28:11-19

31 **Moreover the word of the Lord came unto me, saying, [12] Son of man, take up a**
32 **lamentation upon the king of Tyrus, and say unto him, Thus saith the Lord God;**
33 **Thou sealest up the sum, full of wisdom, and perfect in beauty. [13] Thou hast been**
34 **in Eden the garden of God; every precious stone was thy covering, the sardius,**
35 **topaz, and the diamond, the beryl, the onyx, and the jasper, the sapphire, the**
36 **emerald, and the carbuncle, and gold: the workmanship of thy tabrets and of thy**
37 **pipes was prepared in thee in the day that thou wast created. [14] Thou art the**
38 **anointed cherub that covereth; and I have set thee so: thou wast upon the holy**
39 **mountain of God; thou hast walked up and down in the midst of the stones of fire.**
40 **[15] Thou wast perfect in thy ways from the day that thou wast created, till iniquity**

1 was found in thee. [16] By the multitude of thy merchandise they have filled the
2 midst of thee with violence, and thou hast sinned: therefore I will cast thee as
3 profane out of the mountain of God: and I will destroy thee, O covering cherub,
4 from the midst of the stones of fire. [17] Thine heart was lifted up because of thy
5 beauty, thou hast corrupted thy wisdom by reason of thy brightness: I will cast thee
6 to the ground, I will lay thee before kings, that they may behold thee. [18] Thou hast
7 defiled thy sanctuaries by the multitude of thine iniquities, by the iniquity of thy
8 traffick; therefore will I bring forth a fire from the midst of thee, it shall devour
9 thee, and I will bring thee to ashes upon the earth in the sight of all them that behold
10 thee. [19] All they that know thee among the people shall be astonished at thee: thou
11 shalt be a terror, and never shalt thou be any more.

12
13 As a result of their fall:

14
15 * All of the rebellious angels lost their original holiness and became corrupt in nature
16 and conduct. Rev. 12:9 **And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called**
17 **the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world: he was cast out into the**
18 **earth, and his angels were cast out with him.**

19
20 * Some of them were immediately confined to the fires of Hell and are held there until
21 the Day of Judgment: 2 Peter 2:4 **For if God spared not the angels that sinned, but**
22 **cast them down to hell, and delivered them into chains of darkness, to be reserved**
23 **unto judgment;**

24
25 * Some of them were allowed freedom on earth and engage in definite opposition to the
26 work of God and still-holy angels: Rev. 12:7-9 **And there was war in heaven:**
27 **Michael and his angels fought against the dragon; and the dragon fought and his**
28 **angels, [8] And prevailed not; neither was their place found any more in heaven. [9]**
29 **And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan,**
30 **which deceiveth the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were**
31 **cast out with him.**

32
33 * It is my own personal belief (not official Assemblies of God theology) that Planet
34 Earth was cursed and that the sinning angels had at least some effect of that tragedy.

35
36 * These fallen angels will one day be judged by God and cast permanently into the Lake
37 of Fire: 1 Cor. 6:3 **Know ye not that we shall judge angels? how much more things**
38 **that pertain to this life? Matthew 25:41 Then shall he say also unto them on the**
39 **left hand, Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil**
40 **and his angels:**

THE CLASSIFICATION OF ANGELS

The Good Angels

There are basically only two kinds of angels: good and bad. Of the good angels, there are four categories of them.

* The angels. The word “angel” means “messenger.” There are many, many of them. Daniel 7:10 **A fiery stream issued and came forth from before him: thousand thousands ministered unto him, and ten thousand times ten thousand stood before him: the judgment was set, and the books were opened.**

We do not know how many, perhaps more than any human could number. Hebrews 12:22 **But ye are come unto mount Zion, and unto the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to an innumerable company of angels,**

When we think of angels, we think of “wings.” Much of that is because of the description of the seraphim in Isaiah and Revelation.

The Cherubim

Genesis 3:24

So he drove out the man; and he placed at the east of the garden of Eden Cherubim, and a flaming sword which turned every way, to keep the way of the tree of life.

2 Kings 19:15

And Hezekiah prayed before the Lord, and said, O Lord God of Israel, which dwellest between the cherubims, thou art the God, even thou alone, of all the kingdoms of the earth: thou hast made heaven and earth.

Two golden cherubim were located on the lid (the mercy seat) of the Ark of the Covenant. They were also woven into the texture of the inner curtain of the tabernacle and the veil.

The Seraphim

We read of the mighty seraphim in both Isaiah 6 and Revelation 4. They are concerned with the worship of God and faithfully declare the holiness of God.

Isaiah 6:2

1 **Above it stood the seraphims: each one had six wings; with twain he covered his**
2 **face, and with twain he covered his feet, and with twain he did fly.**

3
4 The Archangels

5
6 Michael is the only angel with this title. Some believe Gabriel may be one as well.
7 They have the specific responsibility of protecting and prospering Israel, of announcing
8 the birth of the Savior and of defeating Satan and his angels in their attempt to kill the
9 Man Child and the woman (Israel).

10
11 THE EVIL ANGELS

12
13 1. The angels kept in prison. Jude 1:6

14 **And the angels which kept not their first estate, but left their own habitation, he**
15 **hath reserved in everlasting chains under darkness unto the judgment of the great**
16 **day.**

17
18 These fallen angels were apparently leaders in the rebellion against God. On the Day of
19 Judgment they will be cast into Hell.

20
21 2. The angels that are free. Rev. 12:7-9

22 **And there was war in heaven: Michael and his angels fought against the dragon;**
23 **and the dragon fought and his angels, [8] And prevailed not; neither was their place**
24 **found any more in heaven. [9] And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent,**
25 **called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world: he was cast out into**
26 **the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.**

27
28 Their chief purpose is to support their leader Satan.

29
30 3. The Demons.

31
32 I believe there was a massive upheaval in God's creation between Genesis 1:1 and 2. If
33 that thesis has validity, it is possible, believed by some, that the demons are the
34 disembodied spirits of a pre-Adamic race. This is only opinion.

35
36 4. Satan. This requires an entire study.

37
38 NEXT WEEK I BEGIN A NEW STUDY ON THE PROPHECIES OF DANIEL, THE
39 GREATEST STATESMAN WHO EVER LIVED.