

## The Book of Daniel.02. Angels

**This morning, we continue in the series on the Book of Daniel and look at the subject of angels, both holy angels and unholy angels**

**One of the most important things to understand about the Book of Daniel, as well as the whole Bible, is the worldview and how the Bible reveals the real world we live in**

**The Book of Daniel reveals that the “warp and woof” of the “fabric” of the real world is one in which the spiritual realm interfaces, interacts with, and influences the earthly, human realm**

- In the spiritual realm dwell spiritual beings, first and foremost God Who is “*spirit*” (John 4:24), and spiritual beings that, as an overall general category, can be called “angels”
- Angels are seen throughout the Book of Daniel

**→ One of the most important things recorded in the book is the interaction of angels with Daniel and their essential role in the book to communicate revelation to him**

**Angels are spirits, or spiritual beings, created by God (Heb. 1:14)**

- At a certain time in the past history of the universe, one-third of the angels rebelled against God and transferred their allegiance and loyalty to the angelic being now called “Satan”
- They’re called “*his angels*,” being loyal to Satan and his kingdom (Matt. 25:41; Rev.12:5, 7, 9)
- These are fallen, unholy, unclean, defiled, evil angelic spirits called “*demons*” (Luke 13:17, 20)

**Two-thirds of the angels love God and are loyal to the Lord Jesus Christ**

- The Scriptures speak numerous times of these angels as “*his angels*” (Ps. 91:12; Matt. 13:41)
- These are called “*the host of heaven*” (Dan. 4:35)
- The Lord Jesus is identified as “*the Prince of the hosts*” (Dan. 8:11)
- In a vision Daniel was given, he refers to the number of holy angels before the throne of God
- **Daniel 7:10** = *before him; a thousand thousands served him, and ten thousand times ten thousand stood before him* → millions “*served*” and 100,000,000 “*stood*”

**The Book of Daniel identifies different kinds of angels**

**Holy Angels are called**

### **(1) Angel**

- The Hebrew word translated “*angel*” is “*malak*,” meaning “messenger,” one sent on a mission or assignment, which does not identify their nature but what they do
- While this word is used by Nebuchadnezzar of the pre-incarnate Son of God as the One in the fiery furnace (3:28), “*angel*” is used only once in Daniel of an actual angel (6:22)

### **(2) Holy One(s)**

- Angels are identified as “*holy*,” set apart and consecrated to God (4:13, 17, 23; 8:13)
- They “come down from heaven” to earth (Dan. 4:13, 23)
- They communicate as well as execute what God the Most High has decreed (4:17, 23)
- They interact and communicate with each other, asking and answering questions (8:13-14)

### (3) Watcher

- “*Watcher*” is the meaning of the word which indicates the general role or responsibility of these particular angels, and is used in the Bible only in chapter 4 of Daniel
- The Book of Daniel only refers to “*watchers*” who are “*holy*” angels (4:13, 17, 23)
- However, the Apocryphal Book 1 Enoch, which is quoted in Jude 14, speaks of fallen “*watchers*” who are identified in Genesis 6:2 as “*sons of God*”

## Unholy Angels/demons are

### (1) gods

- Throughout the Book of Daniel, as well as the whole Bible, demons are called “*gods*” (1:2; 2:11, 47; 3:12, 14, 15, 18, 28, 29; 4:8; 5:4, 11, 23; 6:7, 12; 11:8, 36, 37, 38, 39)
- The etymology of “*demon*” is the Greek word “*daimon*” which means “*god, divine being*”
- They are worshipped and prayed to (1:2; 3:12, 15, 18, 28; 5:4, 29; 6:7, 12)
- Failure to worship them was regarded as a capital crime (3:15)

### (2) “Power” - referring to Satan

- Satan himself is not identified by name, but in 2 Thessalonians 2:9 Paul refers to Daniel 8:24 in stating that the “*power*” of the “*antichrist/lawless one*” is Satan
- **Daniel 8:24** = *His power shall be great—but not by his own power; and he shall cause fearful destruction and shall succeed in what he does, and destroy mighty men and the people who are the saints.*
- **2 Thessalonians 2:9** = *The coming of the lawless one is by the activity of Satan with all power and false signs and wonders*

## Angels can manifest, appear, or make themselves known to the mind and different physical senses of humans

### They can appear as a “man” or human being

- **Daniel 8:15-17** = *When I, Daniel, had seen the vision, I sought to understand it. And behold, there stood before me one having the appearance of a man. <sup>16</sup> And I heard a man’s voice between the banks of the Ulai, and it called, “Gabriel, make this man understand the vision.” <sup>17</sup> So he came near where I stood. And when he came, I was frightened and fell on my face.*
- **Daniel 9:21** = *while I was speaking in prayer, the man Gabriel, whom I had seen in the vision at the first, came to me in swift flight at the time of the evening sacrifice.*
- **Daniel 10:7-9** = *And I, Daniel, alone saw the vision, for the men who were with me did not see the vision, but a great trembling fell upon them, and they fled to hide themselves. <sup>8</sup> So I was left alone and saw this great vision, and no strength was left in me. My radiant appearance was fearfully changed, and I retained no strength. <sup>9</sup> Then I heard the sound of his words, and as I heard the sound of his words, I fell on my face in deep sleep with my face to the ground.*
- ➔ While scripture often speaks of angels with the Hebrew word “*ish*,” meaning “*man*,” it identifies humans according to the DNA of their kind, literally, as a “*son of Adam*,” “*man*”
- **Daniel 8:17** = *So he came near where I stood. And when he came, I was frightened and fell on my face. But he said to me, “Understand, O son of man [adam], that the vision is for the time of the end.”*

### **While similar to humans, there can also be differences in the appearance of angels**

- **Daniel 10:5-6** = *I lifted up my eyes and looked, and behold, a man clothed in linen, with a belt of fine gold from Uphaz around his waist. <sup>6</sup> His body was like beryl, his face like the appearance of lightning, his eyes like flaming torches, his arms and legs like the gleam of burnished bronze, and the sound of his words like the sound of a multitude.*

### **There is a hierarchy of angels based on rank and power, and they are given specific jurisdictions and responsibilities**

#### **(1) Prince**

- This means “the principal authority”
- The Hebrew word “sar” can be translated “general, lord, ruler, leader, chief, captain”
- The Lord Jesus, the “Messiah” is “*The Prince*” (9:25), “*The Prince of Princes*” (8:25), and the “antichrist” is identified as “*the prince who is to come*” (9:26)

#### **(a) Michael (“Who is like God?”)**

- He is a holy angel of God and “*one of the chief princes*” (10:13), which in Greek is “*archangel*” (Jude 9)
- ➔ His “jurisdiction” is Israel, the covenant people of God
- **Daniel 10:21** = *Michael, your prince*
- **Daniel 12:1** = *Michael, the great prince who has charge of your people*
- ➔ He is called “*the great prince,*” literally “*mighty prince,*” which indicates his primary role and responsibility is that of the military commander over God’s holy angels who wages war against demonic spirits in the spiritual realm
- As the protector of God’s people, he wages war against powerful demonic spirits to protect and rescue them (Rev.12:7-9)
- Also, Michael helps holy angels on assignment in regarded to matters of the people of God who are being resisted and defeated by demonic spirits by waging war against them
- **Daniel 10:13** = *The prince of the kingdom of Persia withstood me twenty-one days, but Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me, for I was left there with the kings of Persia*
- **Daniel 10:21** = *there is none who contends by my side against these except Michael, your prince.*
- **Daniel 12:1** = *At that time shall arise Michael, the great prince who has charge of your people... And your people shall be delivered, everyone whose name shall be found written in the book.*

#### **(b) Prince of the Kingdom of Persia**

- This is the ruling demonic spirit over the kingdom Persia, present day Iran (10:13)
- He is more powerful than some of the holy angels and wages war against those sent on assignment by God (10:13)
- He wages war against Michael, but is defeated (10:13; Rev. 12:7)

#### **(c) Prince of the Kingdom of Greece**

- This is the ruling demonic spirit over the kingdom Greece (10:20)
- He was is the spirit who gave power to Alexander the Great and his army

## (2) Kings

- In the terminology of Daniel 10:13, these are lesser ruling spirits under the Prince of Persia, who join with that demonic spirit to war against and resist the holy angel of God
- **Daniel 10:13** = *The prince of the kingdom of Persia withstood me twenty-one days, but Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me, for I was left there with the kings of Persia,*

## (3) Thrones

- Daniel speaks of ruling angelic beings who are given “*thrones*” around the throne of God
- **Daniel 7:9** = *As I looked, thrones were placed, and the Ancient of Days took his seat*
- These are explicitly referred to by Paul as created by the Lord Jesus for His glory
- **Colossians 1:16** = *For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him.*
- These are “the divine counsel of God” who give counsel to God in the decisions and decrees He makes
- **Psalm 82:1** = *God has taken his place in the divine council; in the midst of the gods he holds judgment* (See also 1 Kings 22:19-23; Job 1:6-10; 2:1-6)
- In Daniel 4, “*watchers*” speak of participating in the decision and decree of God
- **Daniel 4:17** = *The sentence is by the decree of the watchers, the decision by the word of the holy ones, to the end that the living may know that the Most High rules the kingdom of men and gives it to whom he will and sets over it the lowliest of men.’*

## Angels have degrees of power according to their personal strength

### (1) Holy Angels

#### (a) Some have lesser power than certain demons, while others greater power

- The angel sent by God in answer to the prayer of Daniel was resisted for twenty-one days by the prince and kings of Persia
- Michael, having greater power, came to wage war against and defeated them
- **Daniel 10:13** = *The prince of the kingdom of Persia withstood me twenty-one days, but Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me, for I was left there with the kings of Persia*

#### (b) Their presence can overwhelm humans and they have power to control human actions

- **Daniel 10:8-10** = *I was left alone and saw this great vision, and no strength was left in me. My radiant appearance was fearfully changed, and I retained no strength. <sup>9</sup>I fell on my face in deep sleep with my face to the ground. <sup>10</sup> And behold, a hand touched me and set me trembling on my hands and knees.*

### (2) Demons

- They are recognized as having limited power
- **Daniel 3:15** = *you shall immediately be cast into a burning fiery furnace. And who is the god who will deliver you out of my hands?”*

- **Daniel 3:29** = *Therefore I make a decree: Any people, nation, or language that speaks anything against the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego shall be torn limb from limb, and their houses laid in ruins, for there is no other god who is able to rescue in this way.*"

### **Angels are given different roles and assignments, among them being:**

#### **(1) Wage Spiritual Warfare**

- **Daniel 10:13** = *The prince of the kingdom of Persia withstood me twenty-one days, but Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me, for I was left there with the kings of Persia,*
- **Daniel 10:21** = *There is none who contends by my side against these except Michael, your prince*

#### **(2) Give Strength**

- **Daniel 10:18** = *Again one having the appearance of a man touched me and strengthened me.*
- **Daniel 11:1** = *"And as for me, in the first year of Darius the Mede, I stood up to confirm and strengthen him."*
- **Luke 22:43** = *And there appeared to him an angel from heaven, strengthening him.*

#### **(3) Communicate and Give Revelation**

- This is one of the most important roles and responsibilities of angels in Daniel, both demonic and holy angels

##### **(a) Demons**

- One of the most important aspects of the book is the reality of revelation, communication, and direction given by "*the gods*," who are demons
- This communication comes to humans through different kinds of "media" of what can be called "*secret or occult arts*" (Ex. 7:11, 22; 8:7)

### **These are identified and designated by many different terms, "offices," and categories**

#### **1. Wise men**

- The overall designation of these is "*wise men*" because they are given "wisdom" from the gods
- **Daniel 2:12** = *Because of this the king was angry and very furious, and commanded that all the wise men of Babylon be destroyed*
- This category is identified 11 times in Daniel (2:12, 13, 14, 18, 21, 24, 27, 48; 4:6; 5:8, 15)

**Many Western, secularized Christians don't understand that the Biblical concept of "wisdom" is essentially related to "revelation" from the spirit realm from both God by angels and from demons (Gen. 3:6; Matt. 13:54; I Cor. 2:6; Gal. 1:8)**

- It is for this reason that Scripture prohibits God's people from using certain practices because they "touch," become "defiled" by, and can be "demonized" by "opening the door" to demons
- **Deuteronomy 18:9-13** = *"When you come into the land that Yahweh/the LORD your God is giving you, you shall not learn to follow the abominable practices of those nations. <sup>10</sup> There shall not be found among you anyone who burns his son or his daughter as an offering, anyone who practices divination or tells fortunes or interprets omens, or a sorcerer <sup>11</sup> or a charmer or a medium or a necromancer or one who inquires of the dead, <sup>12</sup> for whoever does these things is an*

abomination to Yahweh/the LORD. And because of these abominations Yahweh/the LORD your God is driving them out before you. <sup>13</sup> You shall be blameless before Yahweh/the LORD your God.

## 2. Chaldeans

- This is a category, much like the word “Jewish,” that includes both ethnic and religious meaning (1:4; 2:2, 4, 5, 10; 3:8; 4:7; 5:7; 9:1)

## 3. Specific areas are:

- **Magicians** (1:20; 2:2, 10, 27; 4:7, 9; 5:11)

- **Enchanters (ESV) Conjurers (NASB)** (1:20; 2:2, 10, 27; 4:7; 5:7, 11, 15)

- **Astrologers (ESV) Diviners (NASB)** (2:27; 4:7; 5:7, 11)

- **Sorcerers** (2:2)

→ It is recognized that their power and ability to give revelation and interpretation is limited

- **Daniel 5:8** = *Then all the king's wise men came in, but they could not read the writing or make known to the king the interpretation.*

### (b) Holy Angels

- This is one of the most important roles and responsibilities of holy angels in Daniel

- They give revelation and interpretation from God

- **Daniel 7:16** = *I approached one of those who stood there and asked him the truth concerning all this. So he told me and made known to me the interpretation of the things.*

### The primary angel of revelation and interpretation is Gabriel (Luke 1:19, 26)

- **Daniel 8:16** = *And I heard a man's voice between the banks of the Ulai, and it called, "Gabriel, make this man understand the vision."*

- **Daniel 9:21-22** = *While I was speaking in prayer, the man Gabriel, whom I had seen in the vision at the first, came to me in swift flight at the time of the evening sacrifice. <sup>22</sup> He made me understand, speaking with me and saying, "O Daniel, I have now come out to give you insight and understanding."*

### Other angels are given the responsibility to reveal, give understanding and interpretation

- **One angel reveals to Daniel the contents of what Daniel wrote in 11:1-12:4**

- **Daniel 10:11** = *And he said to me, "O Daniel, man greatly loved, understand the words that I speak to you, and stand upright, for now I have been sent to you."*

- **Daniel 10:20-21** = *Then he said, "Do you know why I have come to you? <sup>21</sup> But I will tell you what is inscribed in the book of truth"*

- **Other angels give different revelations in 12:5-7 and 12:9-13**

- **Daniel 12:5-7** = *Then I, Daniel, looked, and behold, two others stood, one on this bank of the stream and one on that bank of the stream. <sup>6</sup> And someone said to the man clothed in linen, who was above the waters of the stream, "How long shall it be till the end of these wonders?" <sup>7</sup> And I heard the man clothed in linen, who was above the waters of the stream; he raised his right hand and his left hand toward heaven and swore by him who lives forever that it would be for a time, times, and half a time, and that when the shattering of the power of the holy people comes to an end all these things would be finished."*

- **Also, Daniel 12:9-13**