

I. The Original Questions

A. Questions

1. Jacob's Ladder- why angels?
2. Does God still communicate with us in dreams? How will we know if it is God?
3. Do angels still help us? How will we know?
4. What other ways does God interact with us through angels?
5. Do angels have gender?
6. We would like to know about angels.

B. Strategy

1. Resolve some common myths about angels
2. Examine biblical revelation regarding angels

II. Myths to Resolve

A. Do angels have gender? Angels are never presented in the Bible as female

1. Angels are ministering spirits!
 - a. **Hebrews 1:14 (ESV) 14** *Are they not all ministering spirits sent out to serve for the sake of those who are to inherit salvation?*
 - b. Spirits by definition are genderless.
2. Angels always have masculine form wherever form is mentioned
 - a. (and is usually fear producing)
 - b. Nouns and verbs associated with angels always have masculine gender
3. Jesus -
 - a. **Matthew 22:30 (ESV)** *For in the resurrection they neither marry nor are given in marriage, but are like angels in heaven.*
 - b. **Luke 20:34-36 (ESV) ³⁴** *And Jesus said to them, "The sons of this age marry and are given in marriage, ³⁵ but those who are considered worthy to attain to that age and to the resurrection from the dead neither marry nor are given in marriage, ³⁶ for they cannot die anymore, because they are equal to angels and are sons of God, being sons of the resurrection.*
 - (1) Assumption: marriage is between one biological male and one biological female
 - (2) Assumption: If there is no marriage then angels are neither male or female
 - (3) But: what Jesus focuses on here is not gender, or marriage, but the absence of death - "they cannot die anymore"
 - c. Once death is removed there is no further threat to filling the earth with the knowledge of the glory of the Lord
 - (1) Genesis 1:27-28
 - (a) **Genesis 1:27-28 (ESV) ²⁷** *So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created*

him; male and female he created them. ²⁸ And God blessed them. And God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it, and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth.”

- (b) Mankind created in the image of God and told to fill the earth
- (2) Habakkuk 2:14
 - (a) **Habakkuk 2:14 (ESV) *For the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the LORD as the waters cover the sea.***
 - (b) God’s mission to fill the earth with the knowledge of His glory by filling the earth with image bearers who maintain His image through their personal knowledge of His glory
- (3) Death threatens the strategy of God by making it conceivable that if you kill off all the people there is no more image and therefore no more filling the earth with the knowledge of God
- (4) Reproduction guarantees that the image of God continues despite the activity of death
- (5) But, the death of death means no further threat or risk of extinction of image bearers
- (6) Therefore, image bearers who live forever have no further need of procreation in order to fill the earth with the image of God
- (7) **People who put their faith in Jesus and persevere in that faith even through death join the angels in an eternal testimony to the glory of God**
- (8) **Jesus’ words here have less to do with marriage and angel gender than the certainty that God’s purpose for human beings will be accomplished in and through those who gain the resurrection through faith in Christ.**
- (9) Two questions
 - (a) Will you join the angels in eternal life through faith in and obedience to Jesus?
 - (b) So, what purpose are you giving your life to?
 - i) To be God-serving and God-glorifying like angels?
 - ii) Or self-serving, self-exalting like demons?

B. Children and nice people do not become angels on their death

- 1. Angels are created by God
 - a. **Colossians 1:16 (ESV) *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.

b. **Matthew 18:10 (ESV) 10** *“See that you do not despise one of these little ones. For I tell you that in heaven their angels always see the face of my Father who is in heaven.*

2. Angels are innumerable

a. **Hebrews 12:22 (ESV) 22** *But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to innumerable angels in festal gathering,*

b. Though 1/3 were lost there is no evidence of an ongoing creative effort on God’s part to replace them

3. The eternal destiny of any human being remains in the hands of God who elects, calls, saves, and sustains.

a. Where the grace of God saves, that person enters eternal glory as a redeemed human being

b. Where the grace of God saves not, that person enters into eternal condemnation as an unredeemed human being facing the same eternal punishment as the devil and his rebellious angels

(1) **Matthew 25:41 (ESV) 41** *“Then he will say to those on his left, ‘Depart from me, you cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels.*

(2) **Matthew 25:44-46 (ESV) 44** *Then they also will answer, saying, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not minister to you?’ 45 Then he will answer them, saying, ‘Truly, I say to you, as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me.’ 46 And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.”*

(3) **Luke 15:10 (ESV) 10** *Just so, I tell you, there is joy before the angels of God over one sinner who repents.”*

4. **Eternal life comes through faith in Jesus nor through morality and death!**

C. The tinkling of bells does not symbolize angels earning their wings

1. The idea that Clarence or any other angel is such a screw up that they get sent to earth to earn their position as servant of God has no support whatsoever in Scripture, and may, in fact, be a clear denial of scriptural evidence

a. The heart condition of angels has already been decided

(1) Angels who do not keep their heavenly estate are bound for judgment

(a) **Jude 1:6 (ESV) 6** *And the angels who did not stay within their own position of authority, but left their proper dwelling, he has kept in eternal chains under gloomy darkness until the judgment*

- of the great day—*
- (b) Angels were created with a proper dwelling and position in the will and purpose of God
 - (2) All other angels serve faithfully and flawlessly in worship and obedience
 - (a) **Psalm 103:20 (ESV) 20 Bless the LORD, O you his angels, you mighty ones who do his word, obeying the voice of his word!**
 - (b) **Matthew 6:10 (ESV) 10 Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.**
 - (3) The Bible evidence suggests various positions of authority for angels but no sequence whatsoever for development
 - (a) Angels are what they are: messengers and servants of God Most High
 - (b) Angels do what they do with contentment and faithfulness because of what they are created to be
2. Of four “classes” of angels, only two are recorded as having wings
- a. Four Classes
 - (1) Archangels
 - (2) Cherubim
 - (3) Seraphim
 - (4) Heavenly Host
 - b. Only cherubim and seraphim are described with wings
 - (1) Seraphim in Isaiah 6 above the glory (proclaiming)
 - (2) Cherubim in Ezekiel 9 - 10 below the glory (upholding)
 - (3) Noting that God is surrounded on all sides with faithfulness, holiness, obedience, and witness
 - c. Though others are mentioned as flying, they are not mentioned as having wings
3. God created His servants with all they needed to know and love and serve Him.
- a. God created angels for their service
 - b. God recreated you, through the new birth to love and serve
 - (1) **The question is not are angels deserving their wings**
 - (2) **The question is, are we being and doing what we were recreated in Christ to be and do?**
 - (a) **walking in the Spirit**
 - (b) **serving God’s glory?**

III. A Final Truth About Angels (For Now)

A. Angels serve Jesus, and so should you!

- 1. **Revelation 22:8-9 (ESV) 8 I, John, am the one who heard and saw these things. And when I heard and saw them, I fell down to worship at the feet of the angel who showed them to me, 9 but he said to me, “You must not do that! I am a fellow servant with you and your brothers the prophets, and with those who keep the words of this book. Worship**

God.”

2. God through Christ sets the believer free from the worship of lesser beings to worship God in spirit and in truth.

B. More tonight @6:30

1. The heavenly activities of angels
2. The earthly activities of angels