

# Cooperating with **ANGELS, SERAPHIM,** and the Heavenly Realm

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## STUDY GUIDE

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*"The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of His hands."*  
(Psalm 19:1, NIV)

## I. The Heavens Above

### A. How Many Heavens Are There?

1. First Heaven: What we see with our natural eyes—the sun, the moon, stars.
2. Second, or Mid-Heaven: Satan's domain where most spiritual warfare takes place.
3. Third Heaven: God's dwelling place.

Lucifer systematically promoted rebellion and seduced the angels under his charge from their loyalty to God. He then led them in an assault upon God's throne. As a result of these actions, he and a third of the deceived angels that rebelled with him were cast down from the heaven of God's dwelling.

They then set up a rival kingdom in opposition to God. This kingdom is situated in the heavenlies, but below what the Bible calls the third heaven. The first heaven is what we see with our natural eyes—clouds, sun, moon, stars. The third heaven is God's dwelling place and our eternal home. The second heaven is below God's dwelling place and above the

first heaven. The second, or midheaven, is Satan's domain and where spiritual warfare most often takes place. (From The Triumph)

**B. Heaven and Those Who Dwell There.**

*"But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, to an innumerable company of angels, to the general assembly and church of the firstborn who are registered in heaven, to God the Judge of all, to the spirits of just men made perfect, to Jesus the Mediator of the New Covenant, and to the Blood of sprinkling that speaks better things than that of Abel." (Hebrews 12:22–24)*

**C. Are There Levels of Heaven?** [The view of the LDS (Mormon) Church]

According to Mormon doctrine, the highest of the three heavenly kingdoms is called the celestial kingdom. This is a realm where Heavenly Father, Jesus Christ, and the Holy Ghost live. We also lived there as spirit children of our heavenly parents before coming to this earth as physical beings in order to progress toward Godhood. Our goal in this mortal life is to make sufficient progress to return to the celestial kingdom and be reunited with Heavenly Father.

1. **Celestial:** This is the highest glory in heaven. This is where God the Father, Jesus Christ, and the Holy Ghost reside. It is also the home of those who were valiant in their testimony of Jesus Christ and His gospel and overcame the temptations of mortality by sincerely relying on Him, and were baptized in His name. Those who did not have a chance to receive the Gospel in their life but who would have received it gladly if they had been given a chance will inherit this glory. Little children who are innocent and do not have the mental capacity to commit sin are redeemed because of Jesus Christ, and will inherit this glory.
2. **Terrestrial:** This is the home of those who were otherwise good people, but not valiant in the testimony of Jesus Christ.
3. **Telestial:** This is the home of those who rejected Jesus Christ and His gospel, and who did not repent of their sins. Those people will need to endure a degree of suffering for their sins in the Spirit World (which is

what we call the place where spirits go after we die), and in the resurrection they will be redeemed to this level of glory.

Various Protestant churches and their denominations, along with the Seventh Day Adventist, Roman Catholic and the Orthodox Church, other non-Christian religions and cults, have differing views on what Heaven is like, how to get there, and the issue of an intermittent place called purgatory. Some refer to the “Levels of Heaven” or “Layers of Heaven.” Some state that heaven is a temporary dwelling place until the new heaven and earth come and old things pass away. It is my hope to teach a class on *“Eternity: The Realities of Heaven and Hell”* and expose these different views on these subjects.

## **II. Various Titles in Scripture for Angels**

Each title carries a measure of the nature of the being described.

### **A. Angels Referred to as Sons of God.** (Job 1:6, 2:1, 38:7, KJV)

In this case, son(s) of is a reference to being “of the order of” or “in the order of God.” Not that the angels are literally sons of God—Jesus Christ is the *only* Son of God.

### **B. Angels Referred to as Ministering Spirits.** (Hebrews 1:14)

The Greek word for “ministering” means “to serve.” All angels therefore are spirit-servants who come to the aid especially of believers in the outworking of God’s great purposes on the earth. Praise the Lord!

### **C. Angels Referred to as the Heavenly Host.** (2 Chronicles 18:18; 1 Samuel 17:45; Psalm 89:6,8)

This seems to be a reference alluding to a rank and order, or angels like in a military processional.

- D. **Angels Referred to as God's Holy Ones.** (Job 5:1, 15:15; Psalm 89:7; Daniel 4:13, 17, 23; 8:14; Jude 14)

The word "holy" means "set apart ones." Yes, God's angels are truly not a part of this worldly system and set apart unto the Lord's work. Acts 7:53, Galatians 3:19 and Hebrews 2:2 all tell us that these "holy ones" brought the Law to God's chosen people. So angels are used to help bring the people of God into a set apart life of holiness unto the Lord! Wow! What a task!

- E. **Angels Referred to as Watchers.** (Daniel 4:13; Ezekiel 1:18; Revelation 4:6)

Apparently there is a category of angels who have been sent by God specifically to observe the events taking place on earth. The word "watcher" in Hebrew communicates the idea of being "vigilant, making sleepless watch." Maybe these are God's reconnaissance angels taking pictures and returning with reports to headquarters in heaven. Maybe this is why some angels are referred to as being full of eyes! Yes, they are watchers!

This in turn begs the question, "What are they watching? To whom do they report, and why?"

### III. The Nature of Angels

*"Who makes His angels spirits, His ministers a flame of fire."* (Psalm 104:4)

- A. **Angels Are Personal Beings.** They have mind, will, and emotions.

**Intelligence:** 2 Samuel 14:17,20; 1 Peter 1:12.

**Emotions:** Hebrews 12:22 (joy). Luke 15:10 (love and rejoice).

1 Peter 1:12 (desire). Jude 9 and Revelation 12:7 (contend, etc.).

- B. **Angels Are Incorporeal and Invisible.**

Incorporeal means "lacking material form or substance." It is interesting to note that some Jewish scholars and Early Church Fathers thought of the

angels as having some type of airy or fiery bodies. They do not know what it is like to get old, get ill, and eventually die.

**C. Angels May Appear as Men.**

According to Matthew 1:20, Luke 1:26, John 20:12, though angels are normally invisible, they can appear as men. Their resemblance can be so realistic that they are at times actually taken to be human beings. (Hebrews 13:2)

**D. Angels Have Spatial Limitations.**

Though they are heavenly spirit beings, they seem to be “localized” and have forms of spatial limitations (but not like ours). They cannot be everywhere at any time. They can move from place to place. Daniel 9:21–23 describes Gabriel engaged in “swift flight” to travel from heaven to be by the prophet’s side. Awesome!

**E. Angels Are Powerful, but Not Omnipotent.**

2 Thessalonians 1:7 refers to “*powerful angels*,” and Psalm 103:20 calls them “*mighty ones who do His bidding*.” It is clear that they are great in strength, yet they are limited and not all-powerful, as only God Himself is. Angels are no replacement for God! Angels are totally dependent on God and their power is always exercised on behalf of God.

**F. Angels Are Obedient.**

Psalm 103:20 says of the angel host, “*Praise the Lord, you His angels, you mighty ones who do His bidding, who obey His Word*.” Angels do not come to do their will—they set an example, even for us. They come to do His will on earth as it is done in heaven. (See Matthew 6:10.)

**G. Angels Are Immortal.**

Angels live forever—period. Luke 20:36 clearly states that angels are not subject to death. Once they were created, they never ceased to exist. Gabriel

appeared, as mentioned in Daniel 9, but then appeared again as Gabriel 500 years later, without having aged, to Zechariah, the father of John the Baptist. (Luke 1.)

#### H. **Types of Angelic Activities:**

1. Minister the presence of the Lord.
2. Messengers pronouncing God's will.
3. Release understanding in dreams and visions.
4. Help to give guidance and direction.
5. Deliverance.
6. Protection.
7. Death of the saints.
8. Release strength.
9. Healing instruments.
10. Praise and worship.
11. Spiritual warfare.
12. Bind demonic powers.
13. Divine watchers.
14. Reapers and gatherers.
15. Execute God's judgments.

#### IV. **A Look at Seraphim, Creatures, and Cherubim**

- A. **Seraphim.** Are Seraphim a specific category of angels, or are they a separate created order of heavenly beings?

1. In the aftermath of the death of good king Uzziah, Isaiah and the entire Jewish nation were feeling insecure, wondering what would happen in the future. The Lord appeared to Isaiah "high and lifted up" and the prophet's spiritual eyes were opened so that he could see seraphim with six wings. In response to Isaiah's feeling undone, a seraphim flew to him with a live coal in his hand from the altar of God to purify him. (Isaiah 6:2-3, 6-7)
2. **Defined.** This word means "fiery ones," as is supposed (due) to their burning love. They are represented as "standing" above the King as He sat

upon His throne, ready at once to minister to him. Their form appears to have been human-like, but with six wings.

3. **Purpose.** They are described as having, each of them, three pairs of wings, with one of which they covered their faces (a token of humility); with the second they covered their feet (a token of respect); while with the third they flew (a gesture of acting on the Word). They seem to have borne a general resemblance to the human figure (verse 6).

**Their occupation was twofold:** To celebrate the praises of the Lord's holiness and power (verse 3), and to act as the medium of communication between heaven and earth (verse 6).

We also find that the **Seraphim are deeply involved in worship** as they release the cry of the **holiness of God** as they were used to carry the coal of fire to purge Isaiah's lips.

- B. **Four Living Creatures.** Are the Four Living Creatures a specific category of angels, or are they a separate created order of heavenly beings?

1. **Ezekiel 1:4–28.** They are portrayed here as having four wings and four faces. Notice that they always follow the Spirit.
2. **Revelation 4:7–8.** Six wings and four faces are mentioned.
3. **The four faces are:** 1) a Lion; 2) an Ox; 3) a Man; and 4) an Eagle.

**Four living creatures:** These are symbols taken from Ezekiel 1:5–21, and are identified as cherubim in Ezekiel 10:20. They are covered with eyes, suggesting God's knowledge and concern, as in Ezekiel 4:7. The four faces of the lion, calf, human being, and the eagle symbolize, respectively, what is noblest, strongest, wisest, and swiftest in creation.

4. **Pictures of the Four Gospels:** 1) Lion: Mark; 2) Ox or Calf: Luke; 3) Man: Matthew; 4) Eagle: John.

- C. **Cherubim.** Again we ask the basic question: Are the Cherubim a specific category of angels, or are they a separate created order of heavenly beings?

1. **Genesis 3:24.** Set to guard the entrance at the Tree of Life.

2. **Exodus 25:18–22, Hebrews 9:5.** Ark of the Covenant. They sit on top of the Ark, acting as covering cherubs.
3. **2 Samuel 22:11a** and **Psalms 18:4–10.** *“And he rode upon a cherub.”*
4. **How many wings?** They are thought to have two wings.
5. **The four living creatures.** According to Ezekiel 10:18–21, the living creatures are referred to as Cherubim and are moving quickly as a form of heavenly transportation.

## V. Other Possible Categories of Angels

### A. Guardian Angels.

*“And He called a child to Himself and stood him in their midst. ‘See that you do not despise one of these little ones, for I say to you that their angels in heaven continually behold the face of My Father who is in heaven.’”* (**Matthew 18:2, 10**)

### B. An Angel for a Specific Church.

1. The seven stars are the angels of the seven churches. (**Revelation 1:20**)
2. Our English word “angel” comes from the New Testament Greek word, *angelos*, meaning “messenger” or “courier.” There are three different interpretations of what is meant by the term “angel” in this case. (**Revelation 2 and 3**):
  - a. A literal angel sent from God.
  - b. The senior human elder in authority and under God’s command.
  - c. There are those who believe that it is not an either/or situation, but that both realities can be simultaneously true.

### C. A Strong Angel.

A strong or mighty angel proclaiming a message from God with a loud voice. (**Revelation 5:2**)



#### D. **An Angel with Great Authority.**

Perhaps ruling over various territorial spheres with delegated authority.  
(**Revelation 18:1**)

### VI. **Who or What Is the Angel of the Lord?**

#### A. **Angel of His Presence.**

1. The angel of His Presence saved them out of affliction. (**Isaiah 63:9**)
2. The angel of whom God said, "*for My name is in him.*" Supernatural presences were thought to dwell within their name; hence, this angel had God's being dwelling within him. Perhaps a reference to the pre-existent Son of God before He took human flesh, who could then take on the form of an angel. (**Exodus 23:20–23**)
3. God promised Moses that His Presence would go with him and the Israelites to give them rest. (**Exodus 33:14–15**)

#### B. **The Angel of the Lord.**

1. **Theophany.** A visible appearance of the Lord Jesus Christ before His incarnation. Before His incarnation as a human being, the Second Person of the Godhead could appear in the form of an angel.
2. **The "fourth man,"** who appeared with the three Hebrew worthies in the burning fiery furnace at the time of their great trial to preserve their lives, comforts them, and demonstrates to the prideful pagan King Nebuchadnezzar that God, and not mere man, was in ultimate control of human history. (**Daniel 3**)
3. **Three strangers visited Abram** when he was encamped at Mamre. Two of these "men" (verse 22) later went to Sodom and visited Lot to warn him and his family to flee before the impending wrath of God which was to soon be visited upon that unrepentant city. Obviously angels have the ability to achieve metamorphosis (change shape and form) and materialize or de-materialize at will. They can appear as human beings. Evidently the Second Person of the Trinity also had this ability before He

took on human flesh in the incarnation. (**Genesis 18**)

## **VII. The Translucent Veil**

Sometimes it seems to me that the invisible veil that separates the heavenly (eternal) realm from the earthly (temporal) realm is becoming thinner all the time, especially when you hear testimonies like the ones I quoted in the first chapter from H.A. Baker's book, ***Visions Beyond the Veil***. There seems to be more visiting going back and forth between the two realms than we realize.

We know that the heavenly realm will never pass away, whereas the earthly realm will, at some point, be devoured by fire. That's why the planet Earth is called "temporal": It's temporary.

Where does this temporal world end and eternity begin? You can't tell, because so much of the Kingdom of God is here now. We don't have to wait until we die to experience it. It's here already. That's what Jesus had in mind when He taught us to pray, "*Thy Kingdom come, Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.*" (Luke 11:2, KJV) When we pray that prayer, we are asking God, as His children, to send reinforcements.

In heaven, they are waiting to come to our aid and they pass over easily from the eternal to the temporal realm. We may not see them, but that doesn't mean they haven't come. Or we *may* actually see them or sense or discern their nearness.

The range and extent of the heavenly and angelic realm is stunning. In spite of our earnest efforts to understand God's Kingdom, we end up with only a partial idea of the infinite variety and reserved power of these fellow servants of ours. Yes, they are our servants, sent to those who inherit salvation. That is you and me! Even so, come!

## **VIII. Prayers for the Release of Heaven on Earth**

Lord God Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, we call on You to release Your angels right now to places of darkness, where even Your fiery ones can shed Your

light. May Your Kingdom come, and may Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. We trust that You will send angelic guards to protect us and guide us. May the angels of Your Presence be released in our midst. Change the very atmosphere of our dwelling places by sending Your Seraphim and Cherubim to do Your bidding. Even as You are the same yesterday, today, and forever, we declare that heavenly activity is on the increase in our sphere of influence, in Jesus' name. Yes, on earth as it is in heaven. Amen and Amen!