

## “WHAT THE PSALMS TEACH ABOUT ANGELS”

*From the Westminster Larger Catechism concerning angels:*

Q 12. What are the decrees of God?

A 12. God's decrees are the wise, free, and holy acts of the counsel of His will, whereby, from all eternity, He has for His own glory unchangeably foreordained whatsoever comes to pass in time, especially concerning angels and men.  
Ephesians 1:4,11; Acts 4:27,28; Psalms 33:11

Q 13. What has God especially decreed concerning angels and men?

A 13. God, by an eternal and immutable decree, out of His mere love, for the praise of His glorious grace, to be manifested in due time, has elected some angels to glory; and, in Christ, has chosen some men to eternal life, and the means thereof; and also, according to His sovereign power, and the unsearchable counsel of His own will (whereby He extends or withholds favor as He pleases) has eternally passed by, and foreordained the rest to dishonor and wrath, to be for their sin inflicted, to the praise of the glory of His justice.  
1 Timothy 5:21; Ephesians 1:4-6; 2 Thessalonians 2:13,14; 1 Peter 1:2; Romans 9:17,18,21,22; Jude 4; Matthew 11:25,26; 2 Timothy 2:20

Q 16. How did God create angels?

A 16. God created all the angels spirits, immortal, holy, excelling in knowledge, mighty in power; to execute His commandments, and to praise His name, yet subject to change.

Psalms 104:4; Colossians 1:16; Luke 20:36; Genesis 1:31; Matthew 24:36; 2 Thessalonians 1:7; Psalms 103:20,21; 2 Peter 2:4

Q 19. What is God's providence toward the angels?

A 19. God by His providence permitted some of the angels, willfully and irrevocably, to fall into sin and damnation, limiting and ordering that, and all their sins, to His own glory; and established the rest in holiness and happiness; employing them all, at His pleasure, in the administrations of His power, mercy, and justice.

Jude 6; 2 Peter 2:4; Job 1:12; Luke 10:17; Matthew 8:31; 1 Timothy 5:21; Mark 8:38; Hebrews 12:22; Psalms 104:4; Hebrews 1:14

Songs teach those who sing them and those who listen to them.

In the youth group at one church I served I asked the group to tell me some of the popular songs they liked. I printed out the lyrics of those songs and asked the young people to discuss the messages of these songs. God inspired the words of the Psalms to teach His people.

1.) The primary role of the angels is to glorify the LORD God with praises of His being and attributes.

Some of our greatest classical music was written by composers who wrote music for royalty, Mozart, Haydn, Beethoven, Liszt, Vivaldi and many others wrote beautiful music which was originally written for the birthday, the marriage, the baptism, or a party of some royal person. How much more beautiful and magnificent is the music of angels glorifying our LORD?

When the hosts of angels were seen by the shepherds, they were heard singing praises to God in the highest because His Son had been born on earth as a human.

And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying: "Glory to God in the highest, And on earth peace, goodwill toward men!" (Luke 2:13-14 NKJV)

When John the Apostle was taken up into heaven and saw many things there, he saw multitudes of angels praising God.

Then I looked, and I heard the voice of many angels around the throne, the living creatures, and the elders; and the number of them was ten thousand times ten thousand, and thousands of thousands, saying with a loud voice: "Worthy is the Lamb who was slain To receive power and riches and wisdom, And strength and honor and glory and blessing!" (Revelation 5:11-12 NKJV)

There were various writers of the Psalms in addition to David and Solomon. Some of them were obviously given some sort of vision of heaven so that they could describe the role of tens of thousands of angels singing praises to God in the highest.

The LORD has established His throne in heaven, And His kingdom rules over all. Bless the LORD, you His angels, Who excel in strength, who do His word, Heeding the voice of His word. Bless the LORD, all you His hosts, You ministers of His, who do His pleasure. (Psalms 103:19-21 NKJV)

Praise the LORD! Praise the LORD from the heavens; Praise Him in the heights! Praise Him, all His angels; Praise Him, all His hosts! (Psalms 148:1-2 NKJV)

When we sing in church, our hymns are joined to the angels.

2.} The armies of God are composed of angels. Why does God need armies? What do they do? He doesn't play with them like they were toy soldiers or like He was the Grand Old Duke of York who marched his 10,000 men to the top of the hill and marched them back again. A third of the angels joined Satan in rebelling against God. They were cast out of heaven. They are now active here on earth and Satan is the prince of the power of the air. God sent a chariot of fire pulled by horses of fire to carry Elijah through the air to heaven. In Daniel is a view into the battle between God's angels and Satan's angels.

Then he said to me, "Do not fear, Daniel, for from the first day that you set your heart to understand, and to humble yourself before your God, your words were heard; and I have come because of your words. But the prince of the kingdom of Persia withstood me twenty-one days; and behold, Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me, for I had been left alone there with the kings of Persia..." Then he said, "Do you know why I have come to you? And now I must return to fight with the prince of Persia; and when I have gone forth, indeed the prince of Greece will come. "But I will tell you what is noted in the Scripture of Truth. (No one upholds me against these, except Michael your prince." (Daniel 10:12-13, 20-21 NKJV)

The one speaking to Daniel is the archangel Gabriel. The princes he mentions are all angels of Satan except for Michael the archangel.

The chariots of God are twenty thousand, Even thousands of thousands; The Lord is among them as in Sinai, in the Holy Place. (Psalms 68:17 NKJV)

Telling of God sending His wrath on Egypt:

He cast on them the fierceness of His anger, Wrath, indignation, and trouble, By sending angels of destruction among them. (Psalms 78:49 NKJV)

Bless the LORD, O my soul! O LORD my God, You are very great: You are clothed with honor and majesty, Who cover Yourself with light as with a garment, Who stretch out the heavens like a curtain. He lays the beams of His upper chambers in the waters, Who makes the clouds His chariot, Who walks on the wings of the wind, Who makes His angels spirits, His ministers a flame of fire. (Psalms 104:1-4 NKJV)

There is a song I like – "O come angel band. Come and around me stand. Bear me away on your snow-white wings to my eternal home." Billy Graham says that God sends His angels to carry us home to protect us from attempts by Satan's angels for one last attack on us

3.) Question 16 in the Larger Catechism teaches us “God created all the angels...to execute His commandments, and to praise His name.” Question 19 teaches “. God by His providence permitted some of the angels, willfully and irrevocably, to fall into sin and damnation;...and established the rest in holiness and happiness; employing them all, at His pleasure, in the administrations of His power, mercy, and justice.

In other words, God uses both His holy angels and Satan’s fallen angels to work His will. An example of this is the Lord’s bringing King Ahab to defeat and death on the battlefield.

"And the LORD said, 'Who will persuade Ahab to go up, that he may fall at Ramoth Gilead?' So one spoke in this manner, and another spoke in that manner. "Then a spirit came forward and stood before the LORD, and said, 'I will persuade him.' "The LORD said to him, 'In what way?' So he said, 'I will go out and be a lying spirit in the mouth of all his prophets.' And the LORD said, 'You shall persuade him, and also prevail. Go out and do so.' (1 Kings 22:20-22 NKJV)

This is why Paul teaches us that all things work together for good for those who love God and are called according to His purposes and it is why he exhorts us to give thanks to God in every circumstance. God is in control of all things all the time. Satan had to go to God for His permission each time before he afflicted Job.

God sends His angels to minister to and to protect His people,  
The angel of the LORD encamps all around those who fear Him, And delivers them.  
(Psalms 34:7 NKJV)

Let those be put to shame and brought to dishonor Who seek after my life; Let those be turned back and brought to confusion Who plot my hurt. Let them be like chaff before the wind, And let the angel of the LORD chase them. Let their way be dark and slippery, And let the angel of the LORD pursue them. (Psalms 35:4-6 NKJV)

For He shall give His angels charge over you, To keep you in all your ways. In their hands they shall bear you up, Lest you dash your foot against a stone.  
(Psalms 91:11-12 NKJV)

Yet He had commanded the clouds above, And opened the doors of heaven, Had rained down manna on them to eat, And given them of the bread of heaven. Men ate angels' food; He sent them food to the full. (Psalms 78:23-25 NKJV)

“Holy, holy is what the angels sing  
And I expect help them make the courts of heaven ring.  
And when I sing redemption’s story They will fold their wings.  
For angels never felt the joy That our salvation brings.” *Author unknown*