

BIOLA COLLEGE

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SYSTEMATIC THEOLOGY CONCERNING ANGELS

Presented to Prof. Gordon Kirk

TH 450 Advanced Studies in Angelology

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This Systematic Theology concerning angels will be divided into the following five categories: Introductory Facts Concerning Angels, Angels in Relation to God, Angels in Relation to Each Other, Angels in Relation to the World, and Human Attitudes Concerning Angels.

~~Introductory Facts Concerning Angels~~

~~I. The term "angel"~~ - the Hebrew and Greek words which are translated "angel" could also be translated "messenger." Angels, then, are God's messengers. Rev. 1:1, "He sent and communicated it by His angel to His bondservant John."

~~II. Creation of Angels~~

- A. Angels were created by God. Neh. 9:6, "Thou hast made the heavens, and the heaven of heavens, with all their host... and all the heavenly host bow down before Thee ('Host' can be a synonym for angel. See below)."
- B. Angels were present at the creation of the world, so they must have been created earlier. Job 38:7, "And all the Sons of God shouted for joy." (Sons of God is also a synonym for angel. See below.)

~~III. Number of Angels~~

- A. The amount is innumerable
 - 1. Rev. 5:11, "And I looked, and I heard the voice of many angels around the throne and the living creatures and the elders, and the number of them was myriads of myriads, and thousands of thousands."
 - 2. See also Dan. 7:10, Luke 2:13, Heb. 12:22.
- B. At times, a certain number of angels is mentioned in scripture, carrying out a specific purpose.
 - 1. Rev. 1:20, "the seven stars are the seven angels of the seven churches."
 - 2. See also John 20:12, Acts 1:10, Rev. 7:1-2, Rev. 9:15, Rev. 14:18, Rev. 16:5, Rev. 21:12, Rev. 22:16.
- C. The number of angels is fixed.
 - 1. Angels do not procreate. Matt. 22:30, "...they neither marry, nor are given in marriage, but are like the angels in heaven." See also Mark 12:25.
 - 2. Angels do not die. Luke 20:36, "...neither can they die anymore, for they are like angels..."

~~IV. Abode of Angels~~

- A. Angels abide in the presence of God in heaven.
 - 1. I Chron. 18:18, "...I saw the Lord sitting on His throne, and all the host of heaven standing on His right and on His left."
 - 2. See also Gal. 1:8, Rev. 4:6-9, Rev. 5:11,14, Rev. 6:1.

- B. Angels have access to earth to carry out God's missions. See "Angels in relation to the world" below.

~~V. Angelic Divisions~~

- A. A clear breakdown of the divisions of angels is not possible, and any "ranking" of classes is almost entirely speculation.
- B. However, two classes of angels have particular functional prominence in scripture.
 - 1. Seraphim
 - a. They worship God around His throne. Is. 6:2-3, "Seraphim stood above Him...And one called out to another and said, 'Holy, Holy, Holy is the Lord of Hosts...'"
 - b. They purify God's throne room. Is. 6:6-7, "Then one of the Seraphim flew to me with a burning coal in his hand...and he touched my mouth with it and said, 'Behold, this has touched your lips, and your iniquity is taken away...'"
 - 2. Cherubim
 - a. They guard the Garden of Eden. Gen. 32:4, "and at the east of the Garden of Eden He stationed the cherubim, and the sword which turned every direction..."
 - b. They support God.
 - 1) In His enthronement. I Sam. 4:4
 - 2) In flight. Ps. 18:10.
- C. Other possible divisions include principalities (Rom 8:28), powers (Rom 8:28), thrones (Col. 1:16), and dominions (Col. 1:16).

~~VI. Individual Angels~~

- A. Michael
 - 1. In the OT, he is a "chief prince," closely related to Israel.
 - a. Dan. 10:13, "...Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me."
 - b. Dan. 10:21, "Yet there is no one who stands firmly with me against these forces except Michael your prince."
 - c. See also Dan. 12:1.
 - 2. In the NT he is an archangel, with special authority over other angels.
 - a. Jude 9, "yet Michael the archangel..."
 - b. Rev. 12:7, "And there was war in heaven, Michael and his angels waging war against the dragon..."
- B. Gabriel
 - 1. Gabriel is the angel who specifically works in revealing the progress of God's program for the Messiah and the Kingdom.
 - 2. Luke 1:33-34, (Gabriel to Mary), "He will be great, and He will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord will give Him the throne of His father David, and He will reign in the House of Jacob forever..."

- 3. See also Dan. 8:16-27, Dan 9:21-27, Luke 1:11-20, Luke 1:26-38.
- C. The Angel of the Lord- is most likely a pre-incarnate appearance of Christ.
 - 1. Hebrew parallelism bears this out. Zech. 12:8, "...and the house of David will be like God, like the angel of the lord before them."
 - a. No man has seen the Father.
 - b. If the angel of the Lord is divine, Jesus Christ would be the most probable designation.
 - 2. See also Gen. 48:16, Judges 3:17 with Is. 9:6, Zech. 3:1, Mal. 3:1.

VII. Angelic Appearance

- A. Angels can appear as human beings when their mission demands it.
 - 1. Acts 10:30, "A man stood before me in shining garments."
 - 2. See also Heb. 13:2, Judges 13:13-21, Judges 13:6-9, Acts 1:8.
- B. Aside from instances of human appearance, descriptions of angels in scripture are as varied as their functions. There is a wide range of physical descriptions, each of which could be symbolic. It is not wise to attempt to narrow down the passages to answer the question, "What do angels look like?" They seem to be able to take on any form necessary, human or extra-human, to fulfill their mission.

VIII. Angelic Personality

- A. Angels have intellect. I Pet. 1:12, "...things into which angels long to look." Ability to desire to learn shows the presence of intellect.
- B. Angels have volition
 - 1. II Peter 2:4, "For if God did not spare angels when they sinned..."
 - 2. See also Genesis 6:2, Jude 6-7.
- C. Angels have emotion. Luke 15:10, "There is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents."

IX. Angelic Limitations

- A. Limited Knowledge- angels are not omniscient.
 - 1. Matt. 24:36, "But of that day or hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven."
 - 2. See also Mark 13:32, I Pet. 1:12.
- B. Limited Power- angels are not omnipotent.
 - 1. Rom. 8:38, "For I am convinced the neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come...shall be able to separate you from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord."
 - 2. See also II Pet. 2:11, Jude 9, Rev. 9:14.

~~X. Angelic Modes of Travel~~

- A. Walking. Gen. 18:16, "Then the men (the Lord and two angels) rose up from there, and looked down toward Sodom, and Abraham was walking with them to send them off."
- B. Flying
 1. Rev. 14:6, "And I saw another angel flying in mid-heaven."
 2. See also Judges 13:20, Psalm 18:10, Ez. 10:19.
- C. Rolling on wheels
 1. Ez. 10:9, "Then I looked, and behold, four wheels beside the cherubim, one wheel beside each cherub."
 2. See also Ez. 1: 4-28.
- D. Conclusion: None of this imagery should be taken as the standard method of angelic travel. Angelic mode of travel, like angelic appearance, is affected by the certain mission of the angel.

~~XI. Angelic Nature~~

- A. Angels are spirit beings.
 1. Heb. 1:14, "Are they (angels) not all ministering spirits, sent out to render service for the sake of those who will inherit salvation?"
 2. See also Heb. 1:7.
- B. However, angels can take on bodily substance.
 1. An angel struck Peter. Acts 12:7, "And behold, an angel of the Lord suddenly appeared...and he struck Peter's side and roused him, saying, 'Get up quickly.'"
 2. See also I Kings 19:5,7, Hosea 12:4.

~~XII. Angelic Use of Musical Instruments~~

- A. Contrary to popular belief, angels are never shown to be playing harps in scripture.
- B. Angels are, however, active with the trumpet.
 1. Rev. 8:6, "And the seven angels who had the seven trumpets prepared themselves to sound them."
 2. See also Rev. 8:2,7,8,10,12,13, Rev. 9:1,13,14, Rev. 11:15.

~~XIII. Common Synonyms for Angels~~

- A. Host
 1. Gen. 32:1-2 (KJV), "And Jacob went on his way, and the angels of God met him. And when Jacob saw them, he said, 'This is God's host...'"
 2. See also II Chron. 18:19, II Chron. 33:3,5, Ps. 103:21, Ps. 148:2, Dan. 8:10, Luke 2:13.
- B. Stars
 1. Rev. 1:20, "...the seven stars are the seven angels of the seven churches."
 2. See also Is. 14:13, Dan. 8:10, Rev. 9:1, Rev. 12:4 with Rev. 12:9.

C. Sons of God

1. Job 1:6, "Now there was a day when the Sons of God came to present themselves before the Lord, and Satan came among them to present himself before the Lord."
2. See also Job 2:1, Job 38:7, and Gen. 6:1-4.

D. Living Creatures

1. Ezek. 10:15, "Then the cherubim rose up. They are the living beings that I saw by the river chebar."
2. See also Ez. 1:5-28, Ez. 3:13, Rev. 4:6-9, Rev. 5:11-14, Rev. 6: 1-7, Rev. 7:11.

Angels in Relation to GodI. Angelic Worship

A. Importance of Worship

1. Angels deem worship so important that they practice it constantly. Rev. 4:8, "And the four living creatures, each of them having six wings, are full of eyes around and within; and day and night they do not cease to say, 'Holy Holy Holy is the Lord God Almighty, who was and who is and who is to come.'"
2. Angels tell men to worship God. Rev. 22:8, "I fell down to worship at the feet of the angel who showed me these things. And he said to me, 'Do not do that... worship God.'"

B. Nature of Worship

1. Worship is an acknowledgement for ascribing to God. those things which are His.
2. Is. 6:3, "And one (cherub) called out to another and said, 'Holy, Holy, Holy is the Lord God Almighty, the whole earth is full of His glory.'"
3. See also Is. 6:2-3, Luke 2:13-14, Rev. 4:8, 11, Rev. 5:9-12, Rev. 7:11-12, Rev. 16:5, Rev. 19:1-6.

C. Attributes of God which inspire worship by angels:

1. Holiness. Is. 6:3, "Holy, Holy, Holy is the Lord..."
2. Eternality. Rev. 4:10, "...Him Who lives forever..."
3. Omnipotence. Rev. 19:6, "...Lord God, the Almighty..."
4. Sovereignty. Rev. 19:1-6, God seen as the governor of the universe.

D. Actions of God which inspire worship by angels:

1. Creation. Rev. 4:11, "Worthy art Thou, for Thou didst create all things."
2. Incarnation. Luke 2:13-14, angels celebrate the birth of Christ.
3. Crucifixion. Rev. 5:9, "Worthy art Thou to take the book and break its seals, for Thou wast slain..."
4. Redemption. Rev. 5:9, "...and didst purchase with Thy blood men from every tribe and tongue and people and nation."
5. Sanctification. Rev. 5:10, "...and Thou hast made them to be a kingdom and priests to our God."

6. Deliverance of the earth. Rev. 19:2, "For He has judged the great harlot who was corrupting the earth."
7. Vengeance of the Martyrs. Rev. 19:2, "...and He has avenged the blood of His servants on her."
8. Final Reigning. Rev. 19:6, "Hallelujah! For the Lord God, the Almighty, reigns."

~~II. Angelic Loyalty~~- elect angels are fiercely loyal to God. Acts 12:23, "And immediately an angel of the Lord struck him (Herod) because he did not give glory to God, and he was eaten by worms and died."

~~III. Angelic Accountability~~- evil angels are directly accountable to God for their sins.

- A. II Pet. 2:4, "For if God did not spare angels when they sinned, but cast them into hell and committed them to pits of darkness, reserved for judgement..."
- B. See also Is. 14:12-15, Jude 6.

~~IV. Angels in Relation to Christ~~

- A. Angelic Position in relation to Christ
 1. While He was on earth, because of His humanity, angels were higher than Christ.
 - a. Heb. 2:9, "But we do see Him who has been made for a little while lower than the angels, namely Jesus, because of the suffering of death crowned with glory and honor."
 - b. See also Heb. 2:7, Ps. 8:5-6.
 2. In heaven, Jesus is higher than the angels.
 - a. As the Son, He has a better name. Heb. 1:3-4.
 - b. God commands angels to worship Christ. Heb. 1:6.
 - c. Angels do worship Christ. Rev. 5:12.
- B. Angelic Involvement in the Life of Christ
 1. Gabriel announced the conception of His forerunner, John, to Zecharias. Luke 1:13, "Do not be afraid, Zecharias, for your petition has been heard, and your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you will give him the name John."
 2. Gabriel announced the conception of Jesus to Mary. Luke 1:30-31, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall name Him Jesus."
 3. An angel announced Christ's birth to the shepherds. Luke 2:9-10, "And the angel said to them, 'Do not be afraid; for behold, I bring you good news of a great joy which shall be for all the people; for today, in the city of David, there has been born for you a savior, who is Christ the Lord.'"
 4. Angels glorified God at Christ's birth. Luke 2:13-14, "And suddenly there appeared with the angels a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, 'Glory to God in the highest...'"

5. An angel saved the life of the baby Jesus by warning Joseph to flee. Matt 2:13, "...behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream, saying, 'Arise, take the child and his mother and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you, for Herod is going to search for the child to destroy Him.'"
6. The same angel told Joseph when to return. Matt. 2:20, "Arise, and take the Child and His mother, and go into the land of Israel; for those who sought the Child's life are dead."
7. Angels ministered to Christ after His temptation.
 - a. Matt 4:11, "The devil left Him, and behold, angels came and began to minister to Him."
 - b. See also Mark 1:13.
8. An angel strengthened Him in Gethsemane. Luke 22:43, "Now an angel from heaven appeared to Him, strengthening Him."
9. Angels were available to Christ for protection.
 - a. Matt 26:53, "Or do you not think that I cannot appeal to My Father, and He will at once put at My disposal more than twelve legions of angels?"
 - b. See also Ps. 91:11, Matt 4:6, Luke 4:10.
10. Angels were involved at the resurrection.
 - a. Rolling away the stone. Matt. 28:2.
 - b. Proclamation of the resurrection. Matt. 28:5-6, Mark 16:6-7, Luke 24:4-7.
11. Angels were present at the ascension. Acts 1:10, "And as they were gazing intently into the sky while He was departing, behold, two men in white clothing stood beside them..."
12. Angels worship Christ in heaven. Rev. 5:12, "Worthy is the lamb..."
13. Angels will accompany Christ at His second coming.
 - a. "For the Son of Man is going to come in the glory of His Father with His angels, and will then recompense to every man according to his deeds." Matt. 16:27.
 - b. See also Matt 25:31, Mark 8:38, Luke 9:26, II Thess. 1:7, Jude 14-15.
14. Angels act as witnesses of Christ's testimony concerning individuals.
 - a. Luke 12:8-9, "Whoever confesses Me before men, the Son of Man will also confess him before the angels of God; but he who denies me will be denied before the angels of God."
 - b. See also Rev. 3:5.

~~Angels in Relation to One Another~~

~~I. Angelic Hierarchy~~- certain angels in scripture appear to have authority over other angels.

- A. Angels respond to commands of other angels.
 1. Rev. 7:2-3, "And I saw another angel...and he called out with a loud voice to the four angels to whom it was granted to harm the earth and the sea, saying, 'Do not harm the earth or the sea or the trees, until we have sealed the bond-servants of our God...'"
 2. See also Rev. 9:14, Rev. 14:15-18.
- B. Titles of authority are given to one angel, Michael.
 1. Dan. 12:1, "Now at that time Michael, the great prince who stands guard over the sons of your people, will arise."
 2. Jude 9, "Michael the archangel..."
 3. See also Dan. 10:13, Rev. 12:7.

~~II. Angelic Power-~~ certain angels in scripture appear to be more powerful than other angelic beings.

- A. Rev. 20:1-3, "And I saw an angel coming down from heaven, having the key of the abyss and a great chain in his hand, and he laid hold of the dragon, the serpent of old who is the Devil and Satan, and bound him for a thousand years, and threw him into the abyss, and shut it and sealed it over him, so that he should not deceive the nations any longer."
- B. See also II Peter 2:11, Rev. 12:7-8.

~~III. Angelic Conflict~~

- A. Angels engage in war. Rev. 12:7-9, "And there was war in heaven, Michael and his angels waging war with the dragon, and the dragon and his angels waged war..."
 1. This results in Satan being cast totally out of heaven.
 2. Probably occurs at the beginning of the tribulation.
- B. Angels engage in dispute. Jude 9, "Michael the archangel disputed with the Devil and argued about the body of Moses."
- C. Evil angels can delay elect angels from carrying out their mission. Dan. 10:13, "But the prince of the kingdom of Persia was withstanding me for twenty one days..."
- D. Elect Angels can aid one another in the conflict. Dan. 10:13, "...then behold, Michael...came to help me."

~~IV. Angelic Communication-~~ It is unclear how angels communicate to one another. One passage shows that they could have their own language. I Cor. 13:1, "If I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love..."

~~V. Angelic Measurements-~~ One passage indicates the angels have their own measurement system among themselves. Rev. 21:17, "And he measured the wall, seventy-two yards according to human measurements, which are also angelic measurements."

~~Angels in Relation to the World~~

~~I. In Relation to Nature~~

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~~A. Angels have power over nature, which they use to achieve their goals.~~

1. For verification

a. Luke 1:19, "I am Gabriel, who stands in the presence of God. And I have been sent to speak to you, and to bring you this good news. And behold, you will be silent and unable to speak until the day when the things take place, because you did not believe my words, which shall be fulfilled in their proper time."

b. See also Judges 13:13-21.

2. For blessing. John 5:4, "For an angel of the Lord went down at certain seasons into the pool, and stirred up the water; whoever then first, after the stirring up of the water, stepped in was made well from whatever disease with which he was afflicted."

3. For judgement. Gen. 19:11, "And they (two angels) struck the men who were at the doorway of the house with blindness, both small and great, so that they wearied themselves trying to find the doorway."

~~B. Angels can manifest themselves in nature.~~

1. Ex. 3:2, "And the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a blazing fire in the midst of a bush."

2. See also Acts 7:30, Acts 7:35.

~~C. Angels can be present without being visible to the natural man.~~

1. II Kings 6:17, "Then Elisha prayed and said, 'O Lord, I pray, open his eyes that he may see.' And the Lord opened the servants eyes, and he saw, and behold, the mountain was full of horses and chariots of fire all around Elisha."

2. See also Num. 2:22-35, Dan. 10:7.

~~D. Certain angels may have authority over specific elements of nature.~~

1. The Angel of Fire. Rev. 14:18, "And another angel, the one who has the power over fire, came out from the altar..."

2. The Angel of the Waters. Rev. 16:5, "And I heard the angel of the waters saying..."

3. The angels of wind. Rev. 7:1, "After this I saw four angels standing at the four corners of the earth, holding back the four winds of the earth..."

~~II. In Relation to Nations-~~ angelic beings may be involved supporting the nations of the world.

A. Michael is the guardian of Israel. Dan. 10:21.

B. One other angelic relation to a nation is mentioned in scripture: the prince of the kingdom of Persia. Dan. 10:13.

~~III. In Relation to Unbelievers~~

A. Angels announce judgement to unbelievers in Revelation.

1. Rev. 14:9-10, "And another angel, a third one, followed them, saying with a loud voice, 'If anyone worships the beast and his image, and receives a mark on his forehead or upon his hand, he also will drink of the wine of the wrath of God...and he will be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels and in the presence of the Lamb.'"
 2. See also Rev. 18:1-2, Rev. 18:21, Rev. 8:13.
- ~~B. Angels will gather unbelievers for judgement in the last days.~~
1. Matt. 13:41-42, "The Son of Man will send forth His angels, and they will gather out of His kingdom all stumbling blocks, and those who commit lawlessness, and will cast them into the furnace of fire, in that place there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth."
 2. See also Matt. 13:49.
- ~~G. Angels have been and shall be used to carry out judgement.~~
1. In the Old Testament
 - a. Ezekiel 9:5-6, "But to the others (angels), He said in my hearing, 'Go through the city after him and strike; do not let your eyes have pity, and do not spare. Utterly slay old men, young men, maidens, little children, and women...'"
 - b. See also Num. 22:22-35, II Kings 19:35, II Chron. 32:21, Ps. 35:5-6, Ps. 78:49, Is. 37:36.
 2. In the first century- the death of Herod. Acts 12:23.
 3. In the end times
 - a. Rev. 8:7, "And the first (angel) sounded, and there came hail and fire, mixed with blood, and they were thrown to the earth, and a third of the earth was burnt up, and a third of the trees were burnt up, and all the green grass was burnt up."
 - b. See also Rev. 8:5, Rev. 14:9, Rev. 15:8, Rev. 16:3, Rev. 16:5-17.
- ~~D. An Angel preaches the gospel. Rev. 14:6-7, "And I saw another angel flying in mid-heaven, having an eternal gospel to preach to those who live on the earth, and to every nation and tribe and tongue and people, and he said with a loud voice, 'Fear God, and give Him glory, because the horn of His judgement has come, and worship Him who made the heavens and the earth and sea and springs of waters.'"~~
1. This should be considered a literal angel rather than a human messenger, because this is the normal use of the term in Revelation.
 2. He is flying in mid-heaven, so all could see and hear him. This fulfills the pre-requisite to the second coming mentioned in Matt. 24:14, that the gospel must be preached to the whole world.
 3. The gospel here is most likely the same gospel which is preached throughout the NT, with the added dimension of the end of this time period.

~~IV. In Relation to Believers~~

~~A. Angels guide believers.~~

1. Guidance geographically,
 - a. Exodus 23:23, "For my angel will go before you, and bring you into the land of the Amorites..."
 - b. Matt. 2:13, "...an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream, saying, 'Arise, and take the child and His mother and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you.'"
 - c. See also Gen. 31:11, Ex. 14:19, Ex. 32:34, Acts 8:26, Acts 12:8.
2. Guidance in actions (some overlap with above).
 - a. II Kings 1:3, "But the angel of the Lord said to Elijah the Tishbite, 'Arise, and go to meet the messengers of the king of Samaria, and say to them...'"
 - b. Acts 10:35, "About the ninth hour of the day he clearly saw in a vision an angel of God who had just come into him...and he said...'dispatch some men to Joppa, and send for a man named Simon, who is also called Peter.'"
 - c. See also Gen. 16:9, Gen. 19:15, Zech. 1:14, Matt. 1:20, Acts 5:19, Acts 12:7.

~~B. Angels deliver believers.~~

1. An angel delivered Daniel in the Lion's den. Dan. 6:22, "My God sent His angel and shut the lion's mouth, and they have not harmed me..."
2. An angel delivered the apostles from prison. Acts 5:18-19, "But an angel of the Lord during the night opened the gates of the prison, and taking them out, he said, 'Go your way...'"
3. See also Gen. 19:1, Dan. 3:28, Acts 12:7-9.

~~C. Angels protect believers. This is similar to deliverance, but angels intervene before the problem starts.~~

1. Chariots of fire protected Elisha. II Kings 6:17, "...the mountain was full of horses and chariots of fire all around Elisha."
2. Angels will seal some believers in the tribulation to protect them from harm. Rev. 7:3, "Do not harm the earth or the sea or the trees until we have sealed the bondservants of God on their foreheads."
3. See also Ex. 23:20, Ps. 34:7, Rev. 9:4.

~~D. Angels inform believers of future events.~~

1. General events
 - a. Two angels informed Lot of the coming destruction of Sodom. Gen. 19:3, "...we are about to destroy this place, because their outcry has become so great before the Lord that the Lord has sent us to destroy it."
 - b. An angel informed Paul that his ship would arrive safely in Rome. Acts 27:23, "For this very night an angel of the God to whom I belong and whom I

serve stood before me saying, 'Do not be afraid, Paul; you must stand before Caesar; and behold, God has granted you all those who are sailing with you.'

c. See also Dan. 9:20-27, Matt. 2:13.

2. Angels are especially used to announce important births.

a. Ishmael, Gen. 16:11.

b. Samson, Judges 13:3.

c. John the Baptist, Luke 1:13.

d. Jesus, Luke 1:31, Luke 2:8-13.

~~G. Angels encourage and comfort believers.~~

1. An angel came to Elijah in his discouragement and provided support. I Kings 19:5,7, "And he lay down and slept under a juniper tree; and behold, there was an angel touching him, and he said to him, 'Arise, eat'...And the angel of the Lord came again a second time and touched him and said, 'Arise, eat, because the journey is too great for you.'"

2. An angel comforted Paul on his journey. See D1b above.

3. See also Gen. 32:1, Dan. 10:10-11, Luke 2:9-10, Rev. 5:5.

~~F. Angels are involved in revelation to believers.~~

1. Angels took part in the giving of the Law to Moses on Mount Sinai.

a. Acts 7:38 (Stephen speaking), "This (Moses) is the one who was in the congregation in the wilderness together with the angel who was speaking to him on Mount Sinai...and he received living oracles to pass on to you."

b. See also Acts 7:53, Gal. 3:19, Heb. 2:2.

2. Angels appear in dreams of revelation.

a. Joseph was told by an angel to return to Israel in a dream. Matt 2:19-20.

b. See also Matt. 2:13, Gen. 28:12.

3. Angels interpret visions.

a. Zechariah had an angel's help to interpret his night visions. Zech 1:9, "Then I said, 'My lord, what are these?' And the angel who was speaking with me said to me, 'I will show you what these are!'"

b. John had angelic assistance in understanding his revelation. Rev. 17:7, "And the angel said to me, 'Why do you wonder? I shall tell you the mystery of the woman and the beast.'"

c. See also Zech 1:19, Zech 4:4, Rev. 5:14, Rev. 17:1, Rev. 21:9.

~~E. Angels serve as witnesses.~~

1. Angels witness the suffering of the apostles. I Cor. 4:9, "...because we have become a spectacle to the world, both to angels and to men."

2. Angels are proclaimed to be witnesses to exhortation.

- b. There is no evidence for a "one-to-one" pairing. If three angels were assigned to all children, this verse would still be true.
3. Conclusion: while there is room for the belief, there is not enough biblical evidence to conclude that each believer has a guardian angel.

Human Attitudes Toward Angels

I. Unbelievers

- A. ~~Disbelief in existence.~~ The Saducees did not believe in angels. Acts 23:8, "For the Saducees say that there is no resurrection, nor any angels, nor any spirit..."
- B. Belief in existence. The Pharisees believed in angels. Acts 23:9, "We find nothing wrong with this man. Suppose a spirit or an angel has spoken to him?"

II. Believers

- A. ~~Angels are held in high regard.~~
1. Mephibosheth compliments David by comparing him to an angel. II Sam. 19:27, "but my lord the king is like the angel of God, therefore do what is good in your sight."
 2. Paul likens his warm welcome in Galatia to the welcome which would be received by an angel or Christ. Gal. 4:14, "...you received me as an angel of God, as Christ Himself."
 3. See also I Sam. 29:9, II Sam. 14:17, 20.
- B. ~~Angelic Manifestations invariably produce fear.~~
1. Daniel's angelic confrontation terrified him. Dan. 10:8, "So I was left alone and saw this great vision; yet no strength was left in me, for my natural color turned to a deathly pallor, and I retained no strength."
 2. The shepherds feared the angel. Luke 2:9, "and an angel of the Lord suddenly stood before them...and they were terribly frightened."
 3. However, in many cases where angels are not coming in judgement, they are quick to calm the fears of the humans.
 - a. Luke 1:13, "Do not be afraid, Zecharias..."
 - b. Luke 1:30, "Do not be afraid, Mary..."
 - c. Luke 2:10, "Do not be afraid, (shepherds)..."
 - d. Matt. 28:5, "Do not be afraid. I know you are looking for Jesus..."

A

Outstanding work.
you might like to add

a section
Semester
A

"non-
extra-Biblical
information"