

IX.1. Lambs to Rams: Angels: Their Origin/Works

Created or Eternal?

Only the Godhead is eternal. In Exodus Moses was questioning God on how he was to answer the Israelites if they asked him what His name is. God's answer had to do with His eternal nature, as always having existed. Jesus, later in John 8, equated Himself with Deity by making the same claim. In Jn 1:1-3 we find that He was not only "in the beginning with God" but that "all things were made by Him" as co-Creator.

Exo 3:14 And God said unto Moses, **I AM** (*Heb 1961- exist*) THAT I AM: and he said, Thus shalt thou say unto the children of Israel, I AM hath sent me unto you. (*Emp. added*)

Psa 90:2 Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever thou hadst formed the earth and the world, even **from everlasting to everlasting**, thou *art* God. (*Emp. added*)

Col 1:16 For by Him were **all things created**, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether *they be* thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were **created by Him**, and for Him: 17 And **He is before all things**, and by Him all things consist. (*Emp. added*)

When?

Job 38:4 Where wast thou **when I laid the foundations of the earth**? declare, if thou hast understanding. 5 Who hath laid the measures thereof, if thou knowest? or who hath stretched the line upon it? 6 Whereupon are the foundations thereof fastened? or who laid the corner stone thereof; 7 **When the morning stars sang** (*Heb.7442- to shout*) together, and all the **sons of God** shouted for joy? (*Emp. added*)

The angels (*according to Gen 2:2-3*) were created some time **by the beginning of** the creation week. By this passage we can see that the angels existed **before** the **physical** creation thus **before** God laid the physical foundation of the earth in the creation week!

If the angels had to be created during the time of the **physical** creation (*remember, they are spirit beings*) did Heaven itself (*the spiritual place of their existence*) then have to be created at that time (*remember, this is God's dwelling place*)? If Gen 1 is speaking of the physical creation and the spiritual realm existed before it, why **must** we conclude that the angels had to be created **during** the creation week? **We don't!** Other than the soul of man, there is no reference of anything spiritual being created in that first six days of the creation week!

Jesus was present during the time of creation. He had a major part (*One of Three – Gen 1:2, 26*) in it. He existed in eternity when there was no physical creation, or heavenly angels.

Their Works Worship God

Rev 5:11 And I beheld, and I heard the voice of many angels round about the throne and the beasts and the elders: and the number of them was ten thousand times ten thousand, and thousands of thousands; 12 Saying with a loud voice, Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive power, and riches, and wisdom, and strength, and honour, and glory, and blessing.

Being in the immediate presence of God, the angels which number “ten thousand times ten thousand, and thousands of thousands” (*Rev 5:11*) worship Him continuously. They are “innumerable” (*Heb 12:22*) and are not all-knowing but are eager to understand.

1Pe 1:12 Unto whom it was revealed, that not unto themselves, but unto us they did minister the things, which are now reported unto you by them that have preached the

Gospel unto you with the Holy Ghost sent down from heaven; **which things the angels desire to look into.** (*Emp. added*)

Revealed God's Will to Man

Angels are spirits but have functioned as emissaries between God and man.

Heb 2:2 For if **the word spoken by angels** was steadfast, and every transgression and disobedience received a just recompense of reward; (*Emp. added*)

They were involved in giving the Law of Moses.

Deu 33:2 And he said, The LORD came from Sinai, and rose up from Seir unto them; He shined forth from mount Paran, and He came with **ten thousands of saints**: from His right hand *went* a **fiery Law** for them. (*Emp. added*)

Act 7:53 Who have received the Law by the disposition of angels, and have not kept *it*.

Gal 3:19 Wherefore then *serveth* the Law? It was added because of transgressions, till the Seed should come to Whom the promise was made; *and it was* **ordained by angels in the hand of a mediator** (*Moses*). (*Emp. added*)

Angels brought the Law of Moses to the Israelites, the precursor of the Gospel of Christ. They also brought and interpreted great prophecies throughout both Testaments.

Rev 1:1 The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave unto Him, to shew unto His servants things which must shortly come to pass; and He **sent** and **signified it by His angel** unto His servant John: (*Emp. added*)

Fight Against God's Enemies

In Gen 19 God used two angels to punish Sodom and Gomorrah yet held them back when Christ was arrested (*Mat 26:53*).

Gen 19:13 **For we will destroy this place**, because the cry of them is waxen great before the face of the LORD; and the LORD hath sent us to destroy it. (*Emp. added*)

1Co 2:7 But we speak the wisdom of God in a mystery, *even* the hidden *wisdom*, which God ordained before the world unto our glory: 8 Which none of the princes of this world knew: for **had they known it, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory**. (*Emp. added*)

Herod was another recipient of God's wrath via His angels.

Act 12:21 And upon a set day Herod, arrayed in royal apparel, sat upon his throne, and made an oration unto them. 22 And the people gave a shout, *saying, It is the voice of a god, and not of a man.* 23 And immediately the **angel of the Lord smote him, because he gave not God the glory**: and he was eaten of worms, and gave up the ghost. (*Emp. added*)

God battles the forces of evil using His angels behind the scenes where the mortal eye cannot perceive it. The princes of both Persia and Greece in Daniel 10 were not human rulers but spiritual forces of wickedness that were influencing the human monarchs of those realms.

Dan 10:13 But the **prince of the kingdom of Persia** withstood me one and twenty days: but, lo, Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me; and I remained there with the kings of Persia. (*Emp. added*)

Dan 10:20 Then said he, Knowest thou wherefore I come unto thee? and now will I return to **fight with the prince of Persia**: and when I am gone forth, lo, the **prince of**

Grecia shall come. 21 But I will shew thee that which is noted in the scripture of truth: and *there is* none that holdeth with me in these things, but Michael your prince. (*Emp. added*)

Eph 6:12 For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against **principalities**, against **powers**, against the **rulers of the darkness** of this world, against **spiritual wickedness** in high *places*. (*Emp. added*)

Minister to God's People

Heb 1:7 And of the angels He saith, Who maketh His angels spirits, and His ministers a flame of fire.

Heb 1:14 Are they not all ministering spirits, sent forth to minister for them who shall be heirs of salvation?

Past

To Lot: Gen 19:16 And while he lingered, the men laid hold upon his hand, and upon the hand of his wife, and upon the hand of his two daughters; the LORD being merciful unto him: and **they brought him forth**, and **set him without the city**. 17 And it came to pass, when they had brought them forth abroad, that he said, Escape for thy life; look not behind thee, neither stay thou in all the plain; escape to the mountain, lest thou be consumed. (*Emp. added*)

To Elijah: 1Ki 19:5 And as he lay and slept under a juniper tree, behold, then **an angel touched him**, and said unto him, Arise *and* eat. 6 And he looked, and, behold, *there was* a cake baken on the coals, and a cruse of water at his head. And he did eat and drink, and laid him down again. 7 And the angel of the LORD **came again** the second time, and touched him, and said, **Arise and eat; because the journey is too great for thee**. 8 And he arose, and did eat and drink, and went in the **strength of that meat forty days and forty nights** unto Horeb the mount of God. (*Emp. added*)

To Daniel: Dan 6:22 My God hath **sent His Angel**, and hath **shut the lions' mouths**, that they have not hurt me: forasmuch as before Him innocency was found in me; and also before thee, O king, have I done no hurt. (*Emp. added*)

To Lazarus: Luk 16:22 And it came to pass, that the beggar died, and was **carried by the angels** into Abraham's bosom: the rich man also died, and was buried; (*Emp. added*)

To the apostles: Act 5:19 But the **angel** of the Lord by night **opened the prison doors**, and **brought them forth**, and said, 20 Go, stand and speak in the temple to the people all the words of this life. (*Emp. added*)

To Peter: Act 12:7 And, behold, the **angel** of the Lord came upon *him*, and a light shined in the prison: and **he smote Peter on the side**, and **raised him up**, saying, Arise up quickly. And **his chains fell off from his hands**. 8 And the angel said unto him, Gird thyself, and bind on thy sandals. And so he did. And he saith unto him, Cast thy garment about thee, and **follow me**. 9 And he went out, and followed him; and wist not that it was true which was **done by the angel**; but thought he saw a vision. 10 When they were past the first and the second ward, they came unto the iron gate that leadeth unto the city; which opened to them of his own accord: and they went out, and passed on through one street; and forthwith **the angel departed** from him. 11 And when Peter was come to himself, he said, Now I know of a surety, that the Lord hath sent His angel, and hath delivered me out of the hand of Herod, and *from* all the expectation of the people of the Jews. (*Emp. added*)

To Paul: Act 27:21 But after long abstinence Paul stood forth in the midst of them, and said, Sirs, ye should have hearkened unto me, and not have loosed from Crete, and to have gained this harm and loss. 22 And now I exhort you to be of good cheer: for there shall be no loss of *any man's* life

among you, but of the ship. 23 For there **stood by me this night the angel of God**, Whose I am, and Whom I serve, 24 Saying, Fear not, Paul; thou must be brought before Caesar: and, lo, God hath given thee all them that sail with thee. (*Emp. added*)

Active Today

Heb 1:14 **Are** they not all **ministering** spirits, sent forth to minister for them who shall be heirs of salvation? (*Emp. added*)

Providence: "Activity of God using nature and its laws as a medium...a miracle is just the opposite...it defies natural law."
Wayne Jackson

1. God never providentially operates in any way that is in conflict with His nature or His revealed will.
2. Divine providence **does not negate man's freedom of will.**
3. The providential **must be distinguished from the miraculous.**

Providence verses Miraculous

1Sa 1:5 But unto Hannah he gave a worthy portion; for he loved Hannah: but **the LORD had shut up her womb.** 6 And her adversary also provoked her sore, for to make her fret, because **the LORD had shut up her womb.** (*Emp. added*)

Here we see that **God closed** Hannah's womb but opened it by providentially manipulating His natural laws of reproduction.

1Sa 2:21 And **the LORD visited Hannah, so that she conceived**, and bare three sons and two daughters. And the child Samuel grew before the LORD. (*Emp. added*)

In the case of the virgin birth we see that God suspended His natural law of reproduction which produced the miracle of Jesus' birth.

Mat 1:18 Now the birth of Jesus Christ was on this wise: When as His mother Mary was espoused to Joseph, **before they came together, she was found with child** of the Holy Ghost. (*Emp. added*)

Mat 1:22 Now all this was done, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken of the Lord by the prophet, saying, 23 Behold, **a virgin shall be with child**, and shall bring forth a son, and they shall call His name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us. (*Emp. added*)

Luk 1:30 And the angel said unto her, Fear not, Mary: for thou hast found favour with God. 31 And, behold, **thou shalt conceive** in thy womb, and bring forth a son, and shalt call his name JESUS. (*Emp. added*)

Luk 1:34 Then said Mary unto the angel, **How shall this be**, seeing **I know not a man**? (*Emp. added*)

4. In providence, **God works behind the scenes.**

Mordecai and Esther did not know God's providence at that time, but we do because we have the book of Esther.

Est 4:14 ...and who knoweth whether thou art come to the kingdom for *such* a time as this?

Paul was telling Philemon that Onesimus' leaving may have been a negative thing, but God took a negative and turned it into a positive. Now he was more profitable to Philemon because he left a slave and returned a brother. All part of God's providence.

Phm 1:15 For **perhaps** he therefore departed for a season, **that thou shouldest** receive him forever; (*Emp. added*)

Providence and Angels

Abraham desired to choose a wife for his son Isaac from among his own kindred and not from among the Canaanites. He assured his eldest servant that God would send His Angel before him to aid him in making the choice for Isaac, a service that was rendered in an unknown, out of sight, behind the scene, providential manner.

Gen 24:7 The LORD God of Heaven, which took me from my father's house, and from the land of my kindred, and which spake unto me, and that sware unto me, saying, Unto thy seed will I give this land; He shall **send His Angel** before thee, and thou shalt take a wife unto my son from thence. (*Emp. added*)

Gen 24:27 And he said, Blessed *be* the LORD God of my master Abraham, Who hath not left destitute my master of His mercy and His truth: I *being* in the way, **the LORD led me** to the house of my master's brethren. (*Emp. added*)

Gen 24:40 And he said unto me, The LORD, before Whom I walk, will **send His Angel** with thee, and prosper thy way; and thou shalt take a wife for my son of my kindred, and of my father's house: (*Emp. added*)

IX.1. Questions

1. When were angels created? a) when man was created; b) before the foundations of the earth were laid; c) the text does not say.
2. How many angels are there? a) they are innumerable; b) as many as the sands of the seashore; c) as many as the stars if you can count them.
3. How were angels involved in the Law of Moses? a) they deciphered it for Moses; b) they carved it into the tables of stone; c) they instituted it at the hand of a Mediator.
4. What might the forces of evil not have done if they had known that Jesus' death would bring salvation to the world? a) kept Herod from sending Jesus back to Pilate; b) they would not have had Jesus crucified; c) they would not have allowed Pilate to scourge Jesus.
5. Why did the angel smite Herod with worms? a) he had Jesus crucified; b) he did not give glory to God; c) he had all the children from three years old and younger killed.
6. Who were the princes of Persia and Greece? a) spiritual forces of wickedness; b) monarchs who ruled over Persia and Greece; c) Belshazzar and Alexander.
7. How are Hannah's and Mary's pregnancies different? a) Hannah's was performed through caesarian whereas Mary's was natural; b) Hannah's was by providence whereas Mary's was by miracle; c) Hannah's was by miracle whereas Mary's was by providence.
8. How did the angel aid Abraham's servant? a) He helped him find a wife for Isaac; b) He helped him find water for his flock of sheep; c) He guided him through the land of Canaan.