

# ANGELS & CHERUBIM

## BASED ON THE SERMON: "Wings or No Wings?"

**THE BIG IDEA:** The beings we call angels are only one part of the heavenly host.

**PRIMER Q:** What comes to your mind when you think of angels? Did you think of wings? Flying? Singing? Male? Female? What kind of clothes are you envisioning?

**SERMON RECAP Q:** What stood out to you in this week's sermon? Why did it stand out? How has God used the sermon to challenge and/or change you this week?

**NOTE:** *"Once we rediscover how the biblical authors saw the world, we can begin to understand the storyline of the rebellious spiritual beings that are at work behind the human rebellion. This also enriches our understanding of the role of humans as the "image of God" and of God's plan to exalt humanity to rule over a unified Heaven and Earth. It is this exalted role that humanity forfeits in its rebellion and that is recovered in the story of Jesus, the first human who is elevated to rule over Heaven and Earth the way God intended."* - The Bible Project

**WATCH:** *"Angels and Cherubim"* by the The Bible Project (<https://youtu.be/-bMRxQbLUlg>) is a 5 minute video to help us understand the good spiritual beings in the Bible. Take notes as you watch this video on your own or in a group. **Q:** What stood out to you in this video? **Q:** What questions do you have up to this point?

**READ:** (Have different people flip to the following passages to read): Take time to discuss each verse asking questions below.

Psalm 91:11	Psalm 34:7
Hebrews 13:2	Revelation 19:10
Hebrews 1:5-14	Jude 1:9
Luke 15:10	Matthew 4:11
Matthew 22:30	Daniel 6:22
Matthew 25:41	Colossians 2:18

**Q:** What stood out to you in this verse? What does this teach us about angels? (*Don't rush this discussion time.*)

**READ:** Angels are not described as having wings in the Bible. When angels appear to people on earth they appear as men. (See: Gen 18:2-15; Gen 19; Luke 1&2; Luke 24:2) There are, however, spiritual beings that do have wings, they are called cherubim, seraphim, and the living creatures. Let's read **Ezekiel 1** paying attention to the description of cherubim. The description of these beings share similarities to the seraphim in **Isaiah 6** and the living creatures in **Revelation 4**.

## Sneak Peak

Read the following passages to prepare for next week:

- Deuteronomy 32:15-18
- Matthew 8:28-34
- Mark 4:32-33
- Mark 5:1-20
- Luke 11:24-26

## For Bible Nerds

Explore the biblical concepts of Heaven and Earth in Genesis 1 and gain a fresh perspective on the new creation with this free online Bible class.

<https://bibleproject.com/classroom/overview/heaven-and-earth-genesis-1/>

## Prayer Requests

Take prayer requests in your group. Instead of *only* praying for people at your gathering set up a calendar event or reminder on your phone later in the week with prayer details as well.

**Q:** How do these differences between angels and throne room beings change your perspective on the heavenly host? **Q:**

**READ:** *In Israel cherubim were carved on the covenantal ark (Ex 25:18-20; 37:7-9), and representations of them were also embroidered on the curtains of the tabernacle and the veil that screened the innermost sanctuary in which the ark rested. The Most Holy Place of Solomon's temple was adorned by two large representations of cherubim, made of olive wood and covered with gold leaf. When placed side by side with outstretched wings, they spanned the entire width of the inner sanctuary. Smaller cherubim and palms were carved on the temple's wooden panels and some of the doors, and were also represented on the sides of the laver stands (1 Kgs 7:29, 36). Cherubim alternating with palm trees formed part of the decor of Ezekiel's visionary temple (Ez 41:17-20).*

Elwell, W. A., & Comfort, P. W. (2001). In Tyndale Bible dictionary (p. 265). Tyndale House Publishers.

**Q:** Why would God have representations of his throne room in heaven mirrored in the Holy spaces he commanded the Israelites to construct? If God required the Israelites to have images to remind people of the heavenly throne do you believe it is still important for us to sit in awe of these images and concepts today? Why or why not? **Q:** How does the throne room of heaven lead you into greater faith and obedience?

**Closing Thoughts:** Taking this week's sermon and bible study into account, what area of faith and doctrine do you feel compelled to study further?

## CLOSE IN PRAYER