

ANGELS 5

THE HEAVENLY HOST

Two Helpful Books on Angels:

- *Those Invisible Spirits Called Angels* by Renald E. Showers (Friends of Israel, 1997)
- *Angels: Elect and Evil* by C. Fred Dickason (Moody, 1995)

Cherubim: What We Know

- Guarded the entrance to Eden with flaming sword (Gen. 3:24) after Adam & Eve were banished.



Cherubim: What We Know

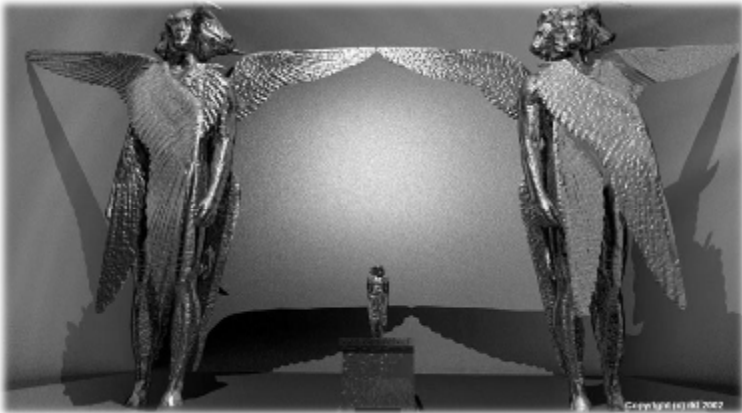
- Two golden images of them were on the mercy seat (or lid) of the Ark of the Covenant (Ex.25:17-22)—each apparently with 1 face & 2 wings.



Cherubim: What We Know

- Figures of them were on the tapestries of the tabernacle, the walls of Solomon's temple, & will be on the walls of the future temple (Ezekiel 41:18-20)—the latter with 2 faces (a man & a young lion).
- In Solomon's temple, the Holy of Holies contained 2 giant cherubim.





Cherubim: In Ezekiel's Vision

- Each had 4 faces (man, lion, bull [cherub], eagle) & 4 wings with hooves for feet, yet was manlike in form with hands under its wings. It gleamed like polished bronze & burning coals with lightning flashing. Many eyes were on it & on its accompanying whirling wheels (Eze. 1 and 10).

Cherub



Cherubim: In Ezekiel's Vision

- Movement—lightning fast without turning, causing a loud sound like an army
- “He rode upon a cherub and flew; And He sped upon the wings of the wind” (Ps. 18:10).

Cherubim: In Ezekiel's Vision

- Supported a crystal expanse on which sat God on His throne in great glory (God's chariot)
- Associated with God's glorious presence—He is “enthroned above the cherubim” (Ps.80:1; Ps.99:1).

Cherubim Under God's Throne



Isaiah “saw the Lord sitting on a throne, high and lifted up” (6:1).



Seraphim: In Isaiah’s Vision

- Hebrew: “burning ones”—afire with adoration of God & zeal for His perfect holiness
- Cried out, "Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of hosts; The whole earth is full of His glory!" (Is. 6:3).
- Had loud voices that shook the foundations of the structure

Seraphim: In Isaiah’s Vision

- Had 6 wings (Covering of faces & feet suggests reverence for God.)
- Number of them is not specified; at least two.



Seraphim: In Isaiah's Vision

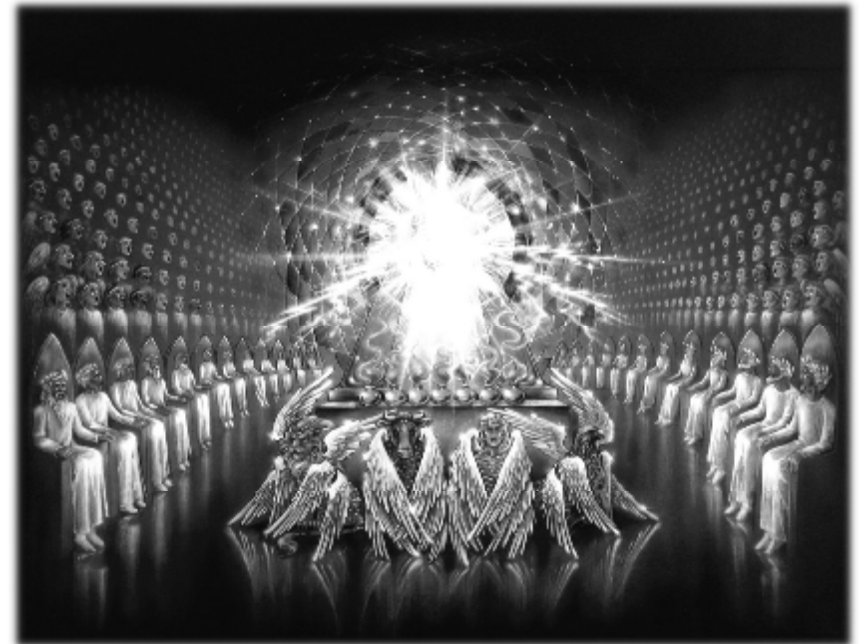
- Stood above God's throne, thus covering it (Is.6:2); cf. Satan who was once "the anointed cherub who covers" (Ezekiel 28:14), before his rebellion.
- These beings have been given that exalted place. Are they, then, a type of cherub?

4 Living Creatures in Revelation

- They worship God; crying, "Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty, Who was and is and is to come!" (Rev. 4:8).
- They stress God's holiness, omnipotence, and eternity.

4 Living Creatures in Revelation

- 1 face each (lion, calf, man, eagle)
- 6 wings
- Many eyes (Rev.4:6)
- They surround God's throne (Rev. 4:6) & lead worship (Rev.4, 5, 7, 19).



4 Living Creatures in Revelation

- They direct judgment (Rev. 6, 15).
- One of them says, “Come” with a voice like thunder (6:1).
- They have similarities to both cherubim & seraphim.
- Could all three be types of cherubim?

Similarities of the Three Groups

- All 3 are close to God’s throne.
- All 3 groups are loud.
- Both the cherubim and the 4 Rev. creatures are covered in eyes.
- Both the cherubim and the 4 Rev. creatures are associated with man, lion, bull, & eagle.

Similarities of the Three Groups

- Both the cherubim and the Rev. creatures come in sets of four.
- Both the cherubim and the seraphim deal with burning coals.
- Both the seraphim and the 4 Rev. creatures say, “Holy, holy, holy.”
- Cherubim don’t have a set number of wings or faces.

Reactions to These Beings

- Ezekiel fell on his face (1:28).
- Isaiah lamented his own & his people’s sinfulness and was cleansed (6:5-7).
- The 24 elders and the multitude of angels worshiped God (Rev. 4-7).



Additional Ranks of Angels

- | | |
|---------------------------|--------------|
| • thrones | Eph. 1:20-21 |
| • dominions | Eph. 3:10 |
| • rulers (principalities) | Eph. 6:12 |
| • authorities | Col. 1:16 |
| • powers | Col. 2:10 |
| • forces | Col. 2:15 |

Michael

- The only named archangel (Jude 9).
- Rev. 12—He leads a force of holy angels who defeat Satan & his evil angels & throw them down to earth.
- He is “one of the chief princes” (Dan. 10:13).
- He is the “great prince” who guards the Israelites (Dan. 12:1).

Michael

- He was able to help a weaker angel overcome an evil angel that had hindered him for 21 days from answering Daniel’s prayer (10:13).
- He may be the archangel whose voice will be heard at the time when Jesus returns and catches His people up (1 Thes. 4:16-17).

Gabriel

- He came in answer to Daniel's prayers and gave him understanding and instruction, especially about end times (chs.8-9).
- He was still in existence hundreds of year later to tell Zacharias & Mary about John the Baptist & Jesus.
- He stands in the presence of God.
- He's God's special messenger.

Who Are the 7 Spirits of God?

- Rev. 1:4-5a—Note the reference to God, the seven spirits, & Jesus.
- Rev. 5:6—The Lamb has “seven eyes, which are the seven spirits of God, sent forth into all the earth.”
- **Seven** symbolizes perfection or completeness.
- The 7 Spirits represent the Holy Spirit.

THINGS WE'VE LEARNED

- The holy angels glorify God in all that they do.
- They are eager and quick to obey Him.
- They are a good example for believers.
- They are self-effacing, pointing all glory & worship to God.
- Much spiritual warfare is going on all around us.

*“You are from God,
little children, and have
overcome them; because
greater is He who is in you
than he who is in the world”
(1John 4:4).*