

# Entertaining Angels



## LESSON 2: The Angels' Creation and Fall

### Suggested Responses

1. We are accustomed to describing persons and events in terms of physical detail — what we perceive with our senses. But angels have no physical component. The biblical writers often describe angels by using analogies, similes, and metaphors. They describe the unfamiliar by comparing it to the familiar. Thus, angels are like light, though light is a physical phenomenon, not a spiritual phenomenon.
2. For discussion.
3. In Revelation 12:3-10, as in Genesis 1-3, we encounter two people, one male and one female. The male child is given dominion over “all nations,” as Adam was given custody of the earth. In Revelation, as in Genesis, see a demonic serpent who is in conflict with God; the serpent is the “deceiver” of the whole world. We see the effects of the drama upon the entire cosmos, represented in the stars, moon, and earth. At the end of the passage we find God making a promise of salvation, fulfilled in the woman’s offspring. We see that all history is recapitulated in Jesus Christ, brought back to its head. He is the new Adam (see Romans 5:12-21), obedient and faithful where Adam had failed. The Book of Revelation shows us that an angelic power was the instigator of the deception of the human race. The Book of Revelation also shows us that many thousands of angels are involved in God’s mighty acts of judgment and salvation.
4. Love cannot be pre-programmed or coerced. Only a being that is free is capable of loving. God made powerful spiritual beings for the sake of greater love and greater acts of service. They are an important part of a creation that is vast and awesome. The greater and more powerful the spiritual being, however, the more catastrophic are the consequences of the fall.
5. Angels’ sins are like human sins in that they are freely chosen. They are different in that angels cannot plead ignorance. Their intelligence apprehends the choice and the

consequences. Their will fixes itself permanently on the object chosen. Human beings grow in knowledge of self, of God, and of the world. We can change our minds. We can repent. We know from Scripture that angels can be guilty of envy, pride, wrath — sins that do not involve the flesh, which angels lack.

6. In the Book of Genesis, chapter 3, the serpent very subtly seduces Eve and Adam into disobeying God, making it appear as if all God's warnings had been lies. God had made the primal couple to be immortal, but they lost their immortality and other preternatural gifts when they chose to heed the serpent rather than God. Thus, death entered the world. The devil is guilty, then, of the murder of every human being. He accomplished this by his subtle lies. He continues his campaign of lies, now trying to keep people from the benefits of salvation, which include life everlasting.
7. We know that God has deputed some angelic beings to oppose the lies of the devil. We know that God has commissioned angels to guard and guide human beings. Serving God in this way, they are opposed to the work of the devil. The Book of Revelation shows the holy angels opposing the devil throughout the course of history and vanquishing him in the end.