

Oddities in Scripture

with Perryn Rice

Hands Off!

Jude 8-9

Introduction – Angels are agents of God but are not God. We do not worship angels! Angels worship God too. The relationship between humans and angels is in God’s will. They minister to us by giving us God’s instructions and carrying out God’s desires in our lives. Angels protect us from many of the terrible plans the devil has for us.

Classification of Angels:

Cherubim – Seem to be angels of the highest order created with unimaginable powers and indescribable beauty.

Seraphim – The name means “burning ones.” They have six wings as described in Isaiah 6.

Personalities & Properties:

Angels Have Intelligence – The Bible shows their desire to learn about salvation (a gift they do not need nor truly understand) in I Peter 1:12. The Bible also shows their ability to communicate intelligently in speech. They are not God – they are not omniscient. Much of what they know about humanity and the future comes by way of revelation.

Angels Have Emotions – Although they are highly intelligent, they also have deep sensitive emotions. We see this in the way they praise God. Isaiah 6:3 reveals the awe and reverence they have for God by saying “Holy, Holy, Holy.” In response to the birth of Jesus, an angelic chorus expressed their jubilation by singing, “Glory to God in the highest...” And Jesus says in Luke 15:10, “I tell you, there is rejoicing in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents.” They celebrate the repentance of the sinner.

Angels Have Wills – Like humans, angels too are created with a free-will in conjunction with their existence. “Angels have self-determination; that is, they can choose from various courses of action and seek to carry one through” (Dickason pg.35).

(The Bible and Angels: Elect and Evil by C. Fred Dickason pgs.34-38)

The Archangel:

Michael – His name is (basically) a significant question: “Who is like God?” Michael has the position of being an archangel and is the only angel with that title in our canon. Michael is also known as “one of the chief princes” noted in Daniel 10:13 and is charged to be the protector of Israel. He is probably a member of the cherub class (so was Satan).

JUDE:

The point of Jude is to discuss a group of false teachers who have infiltrated the church and gained a following.

Jude gives a list of these wicked and destructive persons in verses five through seven.

Verse 8 and 9 – The false teachers were pronouncing judgments against angels. This was seen as an act of blasphemy because angels are the direct representatives of God.

The Assumption of Moses or The Testament of Moses:

This was a Jewish writing that had been circulated in fragmented parts. It dealt with a dispute between Michael and Satan over the burial of Moses.

Jude includes this story, not as a prime point of his letter but as an allusion for verse 10.

Verse 10 – The false teachers were judging things they were not aware of nor had authority over.