

Angels and Devils

And there was war in heaven: Michael and his angels fought against the dragon; and the dragon fought and his angels... - Revelation 12:7

It is a remarkable phenomenon revealing the obstinate spirit of our age. Today, mankind is looking to the stars and engaging whole-heartedly with engrossing fascination in the hunt for “extraterrestrial” life. This is occurring on an increasingly global scale that cuts across all socio-economic, political, cultural, and national boundaries. Yet modern man is simultaneously chastising, castigating, or ridiculing those who revere the Bible, regarding us as unenlightened rubes clinging to myths and fables. But if our unbelieving friends would simply ask, we believers could categorically end their search and potentially satisfy their many unanswered questions in their infatuated quest for out-of-this-worldly sentient life. But we won’t hold our breath...

The fact is, the Bible assures us that there is intelligent, non-human life that fills the universe. But it is not some sort of evolved life-form subject to our space-matter-time continuum like the alien-enthusiasts and “scientists” of our generation are chasing. The Word of God makes it abundantly clear that our universe as well as our very world are teeming with a company of beings – distinct from mankind yet uniquely individual personages possessing incredible intellect, spiritual bodies, remarkable strength, and definitive eternal destinies. Furthermore, these entities are confirmed in their allegiance to good or evil, and they are continuously engaged in battle surrounding the activities of men and nations. We speak, of course, of an innumerable band of beings that the Bible simply classifies as “angels” and “devils.”

There are several over-arching yet extremely intriguing things about the Bible’s treatment of these exalted creatures. Consider the following:

- Nothing definitive is conveyed to mankind regarding their origins in the Word of God other than that they are creations of Jehovah. Angels and devils are simply assumed to exist.
- We do not know when the angelic host was created.
- We are not told when the evil angels fell.
- Some angels (though very few – four in total), have their individual identities revealed to mankind (Michael, Gabriel, Lucifer, and Apollyon.)
- Good angels repel the worship of mankind, while the fallen angels frenetically seek it.
- Angels are incidental in the Bible because they are not the focus of God’s eternal drama (that drama being the glorification of mankind.)

It is humbling to consider that our Christ took not on Him with any permanence the nature of angels but took on Him the seed of Abraham (Hebrews 2:16). Because He humbled Himself to the death of the cross, He received a Name above every name and much higher than the angels, in order to lift fallen men above the holy angels and share in His exaltation. Brothers and sisters, the Bible says that we – fallen sons and daughters of Adam, redeemed by the blood of our Christ – shall judge angels (1 Cor. 6:3). Oh, what mystery is this! Is it any wonder that these glorious beings marvel at this great salvation to the point of overwhelming interest in this most mysterious of the ways of God (1 Peter 1:12).

Yes, there is other intelligent life in our universe – created by God for the service of mankind. Let us praise our God – the LORD of the angelic hosts – for this marvelous redemption which is so great that even those exalted beings fail to comprehend it. -- D. Murcek